Yearly Meeting

Records from 1788

to 1819 Inclusive

is 32 years

No.
100(m)
~~402~~

Men

~~Women~~

1788-1819

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS
FOR NEW ENGLAND

Records No. 2

of the

Yearly Meeting

of

Rhode Island

for

New England

began

1788. to 1819 Inclusive

Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England

461 pp manuscript- Index separate

New England Yearly Meeting of Friends

Minutes of Men Friends 1788-1819

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England, began at Portsmouth the 12th & at Newport the 13th of the 6th month 1788 in the mornings for Worship, & this afternoon for Discipline.

The Accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings being presented, the representatives therein named are,

For Rhode Island; Isaac Lawton, Jonathan Chace 2d Daniel Howland jun Eber Davis, Caleb Greene, David Buffum, Daniel Anthony John Knowles and Benedict Arnold.

For Salem, Jacob Tabor junr Matthew Purington, John Tabor, Isaiah Hacker, Edward Southwick and John Winslow.

For Sandwich, Paul Wing, Jethro Mitchell, Joseph Rogers, Russell Brayley, Daniel Starbuck, Abner Hill, & Joshua Dillingham. Who are all present excepting Benedict Arnold, the reason of whose absence, as this Meeting is informed, is infirmity of body.

The representatives having proposed William Rotch junr to be appointed Clerk for the year ensuing, and Daniel Starbuck an Assistant, who being approved, they are appointed accordingly.

Our beloved friend Samuel Emlen attended this Meeting and produced a Certificate from the Monthly meeting in Philadelphia for the Northern district held by adjournment the 13th of 5th mo: last, expressive of their unity with him as a minister, & with his prospect of attending this meeting.

The Queries were read and accounts and Answers from the several Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging, which manifesting a continuance of many deficiencies, amongst the members of our Society, some pertinent remarks were made, & advice given thereupon, and a concern being excited on account of the prevailing defections, We appoint John Casey, Job Chalonor, Shubael Coffin, James Davis, Jonathan Dame, Daniel Anthony, Rufus Smith, Clark Rodman & Stephen Bullington to take into consideration the reports from the several Quarters by their Answers to the Queries, and prepare Epistles or advices to the several Quarterly Meetings as they may think adapted to their circumstances & bring to a future setting of this Meeting.

It appearing necessary to this Meeting that a Committee be appointed to take into consideration, digest & prepare such matters as may

1788 may properly come before them, relating to the general concerns of Society, We appoint Joseph Congdon, William Almy, Joseph Rogers, John Tabor, John Reynolds, Job Scott, Jeremiah Austin, Edward Southwick, Oziel Wilkenson, Jethro Mitchell, Moses Brown, David Buffum, Paul Greene, Thomas Hazard, John Chace & Isaac Lawton for that service, they to report to this meeting from time to time during the setting hereof, of such matters as they may think proper to be acted upon.

This Meeting adjourns to the Tenth hour tomorrow.

14th day met by adjournment

The representatives being called are all present that attended yesterday.

The General printed Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of our brethren held in London last Year, as also one directed to this Meeting, together with an Epistle from the Yearly Meeting, held in Philadelphia in the ninth month last, and one from that held at Westbury on Long-Island in the 5th month last, were received and read, and their brotherly communications were to our comfort & edification. and we appoint John Bailey, Caleb Green, Samuel Thurston, Silvester Wicks, William Rotch, Simeon Perry, Daniel Starbuck, Thomas Robenson Daniel Howland Junr. Remington Hobby & Isaiah Hacker to prepare essays of Answers to said Epistles, with a certificate for our friend Samuel Emlen, and make out Transcripts of the Epistles for the several Quarters & present them to an adjournment of this Meeting.

The several Quarterly Meetings inform in their accounts that they have forwarded to the Yearly Meetings Treasurer, their several proportions of the Yearly Meetings Stock, and Salem Quarter that they have forwarded to our friend Ebenezer Pope £22..10 of their former arrearage in consequence of our recommendation last year.

We appoint Jonathan Arnold, Amos Collins, Caleb Carpenter, Jacob Mott, Samuel Collins, John Winslow, Paul Wing & Peleg Easton, to audit our accounts with the Treasurer, & propose a a sum they may think necessary to be raised for the ensuing year, & report the State of the Treasury, at a future setting of this Meeting.

Salem Quarterly Meeting informs that they have approved Ruth 1768
Page & Rummington Tobby as Ministers & Moses Slocum, Elizabeth Tabor and Sarah Tabor as Elders, with which this Meeting concurs.

Rhode Island Quartily Meeting having requested the advice of this Meeting, how far the authority of monthly meetings extends with respect to restraining their members from the practice of selling and handing out Spirituous Liquors; the Committee on general matters are desired to consider of this, & report their judgment thereupon to this meeting.

This Meeting adjourns to the 10th hour on second day the 16th inst.

16th day met by adjournment.

The representatives being called are all present that have heretofore attended.

The Records of the meeting for Sufferings for last year, being laid before this meeting, were read, and it thereby appears, that they have attended to the business of their appointment, to the general satisfaction of this Meeting. By their minutes & by information now given us, it appears that in consequence of their applications together with part of the Committee appointed by this meeting last year to the Legislatures of Rhode Island & Massachusetts, satisfactory laws have been passed by those States for the abolition of the traffic to Africa for Slaves, which is much to our satisfaction & comfort.

Adjourned to the fifth hour this afternoon.

afternoon met by adjournment.

This Meeting concluding it necessary that there be a place assigned for the keeping the papers & Records of this & the Select Yearly Meeting as also those of the meeting for Sufferings that are not in immediate use, It is our conclusion that they be in future kept at Providence, and Moses Brown is appointed to have the care of them, and is requested to procure a suitable Chest for the purpose of keeping them in, at our expence, and the several Clerks of those meetings before mentioned are directed to assist him in collecting them. and report thereof to our next Yearly Meeting.

The Committee to audit the Treasurers accounts make the following report. Viz:

We your Committee appointed to audit the Treasurers accounts & propose a sum to supply the Treasury for the year ensuing;

1788 We have adjusted his accounts and find the sum of £52.18.3¼ in the treasurers hands, and think the sum of Fifty pounds sufficient to raise for the ensuing year — Signed in behalf of the committee 6th mo. 14th 1788. Jacob Mott.

Which is accepted, & the Quarterly Meetings are desired to send up to our Treasurer their following proportions of the said fifty pounds as soon as may be. Viz.t Rhode Island £28.15.— Salem — £10.— Sandwich £11.5.— —

The Committee on general services having proposed the following minute, after solid consideration it is adopted & follows.

This meeting being sorrowfully affected with the information that divers members of the Select meeting & meeting for Sufferings, have been induced to accept of & act in appointments to stations of publick Office of Honour & Trust, respecting outward Government, notwithstanding the concern & advice of this meeting last year, and feeling a fervent desire for the restoration of all such to the unity of their brethren, do intreat them to relinquish & come out of those stations — and in case any should disregard the advice of this meeting, & the labour of the said Meetings to which they belong, which is recommended to be early extended, it is the sense of this meeting that they do not fill their places to which they may have been appointed in our society, and ought not to act in any meetings as members, in those stations, whether Ministers, Elders or members of the Meeting for Sufferings.

Adjourned to the ninth hour tomorrow morning.

17th 2d Met by adjournment —

The representatives being called are all present that have heretofore attended.

It having been for divers years much desired by this meeting that a different arrangment of our Quarterly meetings might take place, it is now agreed that the monthly meetings of Dartmouth Acoaxet & Swansey be for one year, set off & added to Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, & it is tenderly advised that they endeavour to unite in a brotherly labour together for the promotion of the cause of Truth. That they meet and hold their meetings at the times & places as heretofore, except those in the 10th & 12th months, which are to be held at the usual times but instead of the

usual places That in the 10th month is directed to be held at Apponagansett 1788
& that in the 12th month at Bedford, & That Rhode Island Quarter be held in the Spring & Summer as usual, in the Fall at Portsmouth & in the Winter at Providence at the usual times. and the further consideration of this subject is referred to our next Meeting.

It appearing by the minutes of the meeting for Sufferings, That the Funds for the Yearly Meeting School are at present through the great difficulty of collecting them, inadequate to a proper continuance of said School; it is advised that a vacation thereof take place until our next Yearly Meeting, the particular time for which to be assigned by the meeting for Sufferings, and that the several monthly meetings be desired to contribute in freedom towards an increase of the Funds, that the institution may become more generally useful.

Adjourned to the third hour this afternoon.

(Afternoon met by adjournment.)

It appearing that notwithstanding the advice & intreaties of this meeting in 1784 & last year, divers of our members have been so inattentive thereto, as not yet to forbear the practice of Importing, Trading in & Handing out distilled Spirituous Liquors, to the weakening of their own hands & obstructing Society from holding up this important Testimony as becometh our holy Profession, and a fresh exercise arising that their obstructions be removed, it is recommended to monthly meetings that Committees be appointed to labour with all such, as may continue in either of said practices or of Distilling, and endeavour to prevail with them to a cordial compliance with the advice of this meeting, and if any should continue so disregardful of the Unity of the body, as to counteract them in this important concern, it is recommended that they be dealt with & if unreclaimed Testified against, as those who disregard the advice of their brethren. and it is directed that this minute be inserted in all the Books of Discipline, under the head Spirituous Liquors.

It is concluded that Portsmouth first day meeting in the time of holding this meeting, be in future considered as a part thereof, and consequently be under the cognizance of the Select Yearly Meeting.

1788 Rhode Island Monthly Meeting is desired to provide accomodation for friends houses during the time of our next Yearly Meeting, and bring their account of the expence thereof to said meeting, if they think best, in order that the Treasurer may be directed to pay the same.

The matter refered from last Year respecting the manner of signing Certificates having been solidly deliberated upon it is refered again to our next yearly Meeting, and the Monthly Meetings in the mean time are at liberty to proceed with respect to signing them as they may think best, either by the Clerks only or by numbers.

The friends that composed the meeting for Sufferings last Year, except our late friend Thomas Lapham, who has since deceased, are again continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, and to act in that capacity agreable to the former appointment and constitution of said meeting, and we appoint John Reynolds, Shubael Coffin, Silvester Wicks & William Rotch Junr. in addition to them.

Essays of Epistles to our friends & brethren at their next Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia & Westbury on Long Island, as also to our several Quarterly Meetings, and a Certificate directed to the monthly meeting of Philadelphia, for the Northern District, in behalf of our beloved friend Samuel Emlen, were presented by the committies for those services, which on being read & approved were signed by the Clerk.

The Clerk is is directed to make out such extracts from these minutes as are necessary to be sent to the Quarterly Meetings and monthly meeting of Rhode Island, & forward them thereto.

This Meeting having been in a good degree favoured with the ownings of divine regard during the several sittings hereof we have been enabled to transact the weighty concerns of Society in condescension & concord; under an humbling sense whereof we conclude & adjourn to next year, then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit.

Signed in & on behalf of our said Meeting

William Rotch Junr Clerk

To the Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia for the Northern 1788
district.

Dear Friends

Our beloved friend Samuel Emlen hath attended this Meeting with your Certificate, whose company & labours of love in the ministry & in the discipline of the Church, have been to our edification and comfort. With desires for his preservation, and that when his service is accomplished, he may be favoured to return to his family and friends, with the reward of peace. We conclude and remain your Freinds & Brethren. — Signed by order of the Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 12th of the 6th mo. to the 17th of the same inclusive 1788. by Wm. Rotch Junr. Clerk to the Meeting this year.

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 12th of 6th mo. to the 17th of the same inclusive 1788

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends

In a renewed sense of our heavenly Fathers love, extended unto us in this our annual Assembly, do we affectionately salute you, & inform, that your salutary Epistle of last year, and the general printed Epistle have been read amongst us to our edification & comfort, & the sympathizing concern of your spirits for the promotion of the cause of Truth & Righteous, evidently tended to cover our minds with an awful solemnity, under the influence whereof we were engaged to offer the tribute of praise to him who first gathered us to be a people.

Although we are sorrowfully affected by a sense of the many deficiencies still remaining among us, yet we have been favoured with a comfortable prospect of a renewed visitation being extended to divers, especially of the youth, some of whom by yielding obedience to the Heavenly Vision, have been made as way-marks to the honest enquirers after the way to peace; may the number of these both with us and with

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1788

with you be increased, & as the harvest truly is plentious, may it please the great Husbandman to qualify faithful Labourers sufficient for the day, & may those to whom the Office of such qualification is made, chearfully give up thereto, & without consultations with flesh & blood, or suffering any unwarrantable object to divert their pursuit, surrender to all the holy appointments, in humble reliance upon allsufficient help.

2 By accounts received from the several Quarterly Meetings we learn, that harmony & concord are generally maintained amongst us, & the important affairs of our religious Society transacted in a spirit of condescension.

We note with particular satisfaction, the prevalence of the concern with you, for the vindication of the rights of the oppressed Africans, & have with satisfaction to inform you, that it appears spreading among people of other Societies on our side the Atlantic. 2 The Legislative bodies of Massachusetts & Rhode Island, some of whose inhabitants were in the practice of the Slave Trade to Africa, were petitioned by our last Yearly Meeting to suppress that iniquitous traffick, which petitions, were received, & Laws passed, restraining the Subjects of those States from being any way concerned in that Trade.

Our beloved Friend Samuel Emlen from Philadelphia attended this meeting to our satisfaction, & desires to unite with us in saluting you again in Gospel Love, in which we remain affectionately your friends & brethren.

2 Signed by order & on behalf of our aforesaid
Meeting by William Rotch Jun Clerk
to the Meeting this year.

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2 From our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 12th of the 6th mo: to the 17th of same inclusive 1788
2 To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held at Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

Through the gracious extendings of divine help we have been again favoured to meet together, in this our Annual Assembly & to transact the weighty affairs of our Society, which

came before us, with a degree of brotherly love and concord. 1788

The Epistle from your last Yearly Meeting, was received and read among us, & it is with satisfaction we observe, that there are many among you, whose care & concern is for the welfare of the Church: & the salutary advice in your brotherly communication is much to our edification & comfort.

By the accounts brought up from the Quarterly Meetings it appears, that Love & Unity are in a good degree maintained by a considerable number, who preferring the Love of Christ to all worldly considerations, are seeking a City that hath Foundations, whose maker & builder is God; but it is sorrowful to observe the deficiencies yet remaining among many professing with us, which has caused painful exercise to this Meeting, & renewed desires have been experienced, that such as are the cause thereof, may lay it to heart, and by timely repentance & amendment of life experience a being washed in the laver of regeneration, & thereby be brought into the Unity of that body, of which Christ is head, which travails for the welfare of Zion; thus will they come forward in the work, the Testimony of Truth be advanced, & the knowledge of the Lord increased in the Earth.

It is with thankfulness to the Author of all good, that we mention that the Memorials from our last Yearly Meeting to those in Legislative Authority, in Massachusetts & Rhode Island Governments, have been noticed, & they have been induced to pass Laws, restraining their subjects from further prosecuting that iniquitous Trade to Africa.

The consideration of the subject proposed by your Meeting in the year 1786 respecting our method of signing certificates for friends traveling in the work of the ministry, has been again under our solid deliberation, & being desirous that we might adopt the best method, & that these three adjoining Yearly Meetings may be united therein, we have again referred it to our next Yearly Meeting, & in the mean time leave our monthly meetings at liberty to sign them as they may think best either by the Clerk only, or by a number of friends.

We affectionately salute you & remain

Your Friends & Brethren. Signed by direction & on behalf of said Meeting by William Rotch Junr. Clerk.

to the Meeting this year

1788. From our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 12th to 17th of 6mo. inclusive 1788 to the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held at Westbury on Long Island.

Dear Friends

Having been again favoured to meet in this our annual Assembly, through the continued extensions of divine help, have been enabled to transact the affairs of the Church, which have come before us, in a good degree of Concord and Harmony, experiencing a concern for the growth & prosperity thereof, which hath enabled us to labour for the preservation of our members from the many snares which await them.

By accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging, we are informed that notwithstanding the many weaknesses among us. Love & Unity is in a good degree preserved by a considerable number.

Your acceptable Epistle of the 5th month last came to hand and was read to our satisfaction and comfort.

The subject of the Trade to Africa for Slaves being laid before the Legislatures of the Massachusetts & Rhode Island States, by Memorials from our last Yearly Meeting, met with favourable receptions, & Laws were passed, restraining their subjects from being concerned therein in future. Thus there is a cause of thankfulness to the Author of all good, that he has been pleased to crown the honest endeavours of his servants with success.

We feelingly unite with you in the necessity there is carefully to guard against a worldly Spirit, even for those who may have been favoured with touches of divine Love, & in a good measure risen up to the requirings of Truth, & made some progress in the way of regeneration, yet being again tempted with the allurements of this World, are in danger of loosing that humble dependance & delight in him, who is the way the truth & the Life, it is not enough for any, that they have begun well, & for a time walked in the path of self denial, if they afterwards, suffer their minds to become careless & at ease, & finally estranged from him, who was once the beloved of their souls, but there must be an abiding in Christ the vine, if we bring forth fruit to his praise; they that abide

not

not in him, will become as withered branches; may there be a renewed engagement individually to feel after the Divine will concerning us, that we may see the path cast up for us to walk in, & follow him in the way of his requirings, so shall we be enabled to fill up our stations in the Church, & in the end have to say with the apostle, I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished my course, henceforth there is laid up for me a Crown of Righteousness, which God the righteous judge shall give unto me in that day, & not unto me only, but unto all them that love the appearing of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ.)

In brotherly affection we salute you & are your Friends & Brethren. Signed on behalf, & by direction of our Meeting aforesaid by William Rotch Junr Clerk to the Meeting this Year.

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New-England by adjournments from the 12th to 17th of 6th mo. inclusive 1788

To the Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging.

Dear Friends

We have received accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings belonging hereto, together with Answers to the Queries, & have been sorrowfully affected in observing the many deficiencies therein mentioned, × and have noticed with concern your information of some dealing in goods suspected to be run, do recommend a particular attention to our Testimony in that respect that it may be preserved inviolate. × As advices have been frequently & repeatedly communicated, & much wholesome counsel is contained in the Epistles from London, Philadelphia & Westbury, transcripts of which are herewith sent, we apprehend any further communications of that sort from us unnecessary at this time, fervently desiring that you may pay that attention to them as to be profitably instructed thereby: for our further advice we refer you to the extracts from our minutes which the Clerk is directed to forward herewith. Signed by direction, & on behalf of our said Meeting by ——— Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to the Meeting this year.

P.S. The several Quarterly Meetings are desired to forward to our next Yearly Meeting a list of their Members of the Select Meeting.

N.B. The recommendation included within these marks × × was only to Sandwich Quarter

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1789

At our yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode-Island for New England, began at Portsmouth the 11th & at Newport the 12th of the 6th mo: 1789 in the Mornings for Worship & the afternoon of the 12th for Discipline.

The Accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings being presented the friends therein named for Representatives are For Rhode Island, Isaac Lawton George Comstoke Oziel Wilkenson, Elisha Sheer, Gould Hash, Andrew Nichols, For Salem, Jeremiah Tucker, Henry Oliver, John Saber, Richard Jame[illegible] Douglas For Sandwich Jeremiah Austin Junr: Joseph Harris, Joseph Wing, Moses Buffington, Abner Potter Peleg Easton, John Bailey & William Rotch Junr: Who being called are all present except George Comstoke and Oziel Wilkenson, & Geo: Comstoke having sent the reasons of his absence in writing, are satisfactory to this meeting.

One of the Representatives in behalf of them all having proposed William Rotch Junr: to be appointed Clerk for the ensuing year, & Benjamin Freeborn an assistant. who being approved. they are appointed accordingly.

Our beloved Friend Zachariah Ferris attended this Meeting & produced a Certificate from Wilmington monthly Meeting dated 15th of 4th mo last & concurd with at Chester Quarterly Meeting 11th of 5th mo: last, expressing their Unity with him as a Minister & with his concern to make a Religious visit in New York & New England Governments.

Also our Friend Rebeh Johnson attended this Meeting & produced a Certificate from Wilmington monthly meeting dated 13 of 5 mo: last expressing their unity with him as a member, & in his concern to attend our before mentioned friend Zachariah Ferris in his visit to these parts.

Also our beloved friend John Simpson attended this Meeting & produced a Certificate from Wrightstown Monthly Meeting in Bucks County Pennsylvania date 20th of 5th mo. last, concurred with at Buckingham Quarterly Meeting dated 28th of same, expressive of their unity with him as a minister & with his concern to attend this Meeting & some other parts of New England.

Also our beloved friend George Martin attended this meeting & produced a Certificate from Concord Monthly meeting dated 6th of 5mo & commended to Sussex Quarterly Meeting 11th of the same, expressive of their unity with him as a minister & concern to perform a Religious visit within the compass of this meeting. 1789

Likewise our beloved friend Benjamin Worth attended this meeting and produced a Certificate from Pur[illegible] monthly Meeting dated 9th of 4th month last expressive of their unity with him as a minister and also with his concern to make a Religious visit to friends in New England. Also his companion James Mott attended this Meeting with a Copy of a minute of the same monthly Meeting expressive of their unity with him as an Elder and approbation of his accompanying our said friend, which were all read to satisfaction.

This Meting adjourns to the 10th hour tomorrow.

13th day met by adjournment.

The Representatives being called are all present except George Gamble.

The Queries were read, & accounts & answers from the several Quarterly Meetings belonging, which shewing the state of Society, & being deliberately considered, many judicious remarks were made upon the prevailing deficiencies manifested by them, which are recommended to the solid attention of friends, and we appoint William Ring, Job Chalkley, Henry Oliver, Richard Dane, Nathan Breed, Silvester Hicks, William Macy, & Clark Rodman, to take into consideration the answers to the Queries, and make essays of Epistles or such other advices as they may think best to be communicated to the Quarterly Meetings & lay them before a future adjournment of this Meeting.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having in their account informed that Samuel Aldrich had desired an Appeal to this Meting from their judgment, a paper was received & read subscribed by the said Samuel Aldrich requesting his Appeal might be withdrawn.

1789

By accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings it appears that they have all forwarded their several proportions of the Yearly Meeting's Stock for last year.

Our beloved Friend Rebecca Jones being here on a religious visit, produced a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia for the Northern District dated 2d of present month, expressing their unity with her ministry & also in her concern to make a Religious visit to Friends in New England which was read to satisfaction.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in their account having proposed for our consideration, whether some useful alterations in the times of holding their Quarterly Meetings might not be made, which is referred to the consideration of a Committee to be appointed for general services.

It appearing necessary that a Committee be appointed to take into consideration such general matters respecting the state of Society, as may from time to time, during the sitting of this Meeting, come before them. Viz. Abraham Wilbur, William Rotch, Thomas Hazard, Augustus Lapham, David Greene, Jeremiah Hacker, Jeremiah Austin jun.r, Rufus Smith, Moses Buffington, Samuel Thurston, Joshua Gilbam, Jethro Mitchel, Jacob Mott, & Elisha Thornton; for that service, they to report as way may open, at the future sittings of this Meeting.

A Testimony from Rhode Island Monthly & Quarterly Meetings concerning our deceased Friend Joseph Mitchell was read in this Meeting, approved, and the Clerk is directed to record it.

Salem Quarterly Meeting inform that they have approved the recommendation of Alice Needham as a Minister & the appointment of Nathan Breed to the station of an Elder.

The several Quarterly Meetings having forwarded Lists of their select Members they were read & are directed to be inserted together in the book of Records.

This Meeting adjourns to the third hour this afternoon. 1780

(afternoon met by adjournment.)

An Epistle from our brethren at their yearly Meeting in London last year, directed to this Meeting, also the general printed Epistle from the same Meeting, Likewise Epistles from the last yearly Meetings of Philadelphia & Westbury on Long Island, were read in this Meeting to our comfort & Edification. And we appoint Richard Delano Robert Lloyd, Thomas Rowland, John Williams, Obadiah Williams & Peleg Mitchell to unite with the Committee appointed to prepare Epistles to the Quarterly Meetings and to prepare essays of Epistles to those three yearly Meetings & also endorsements for the Certificates of our friends now present from the Western yearly Meetings and Likewise transcribe the Epistles now received for our several Quarterly Metings.

The matter referred from our last yearly Meeting respecting the manner of signing Certificates, having been under consideration, is again referred to our next Meeting, and the monthly Meetings are left at liberty to sign them as they may think best.

We appoint John Hadwin, Joseph Austin, Daniel Nowell, John Winslow, Lebi Hunt & Joseph Wing to audit our accounts with the Treasurer & report the state thereof at a future sitting of this Meeting, also to consider & report a suitable Sum to be raised the ensuing year.

The Records of the Meeting for sufferings for the year last, were presented & read in this meeting, & their attention to the business that came before them appears to the general satisfaction of this meeting. And the same friends are again continued to constitute a Meeting for sufferings for the ensuing year, & to act in that capacity agreeably to the former appointment & Constitution of said Meeting.

Moses Brown informs he has procured a Chest for the purpose of keeping our Books & papers, as requested last year, & has received many of them, but as some of them are not yet collected, the several Clerks are again requested to forward

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1789

him such as may come within their knowledge, & report to our next Yearly Meeting.

This Meeting adjourns to the 11th hour on second day next the 15th Instant.

15th day met by adjournment.

The funds of the Yearly Meeting School being still inadequate to a continuation of said School, it is again concluded that a vacation thereof continue until our next Yearly Meeting.

The committee on General services reported that they had considered the matter proposed by Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting & it was their judgment that it be recommended to them to reconsider that matter & if they hereafter be of the mind that some alteration should be necessary, that they propose such as may to them appear best, to our next Yearly Meeting, which being approved by this Meeting, the Clerk is directed to forward them a Copy of this Minute.

This Meeting adjourns to the 3d hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The Committee to audit the Treasurers accounts, made report, by which there appears to be a balance in our favour of £71.13.1½ they likewise propose that £50 — be raised the ensuing year, which being approved by this Meeting, the Quarterly Meetings are hereby requested to send up said money to our Treasurer in the following proportions, & send an account thereof to our next Yearly Meeting.

Rhode Island £21.7.7. Salem £10 — Sandwich £18.12.5.

By the reports from our several Quarters, the state of Society appears to be as follows.

That all Meetings for Worship on first days of the Week & those for Discipline are duly attended by the greatest part of Friends, those for Worship on other days of the Week are considerably neglected & some give way to that reproachful practice of sleeping in meetings.

That a good degree of Love & Unity are maintained amongst Friends but in general not so extensively as becomes the followers of Christ.

That our testimony respecting plainness the disuse of 1789
spirituous Liquors Slavery & the other branches of
our Christian Discipline appears to be generally pretty
well maintained although not without divers excep-
tions which were mostly under the notice of Friends.

The general Committee having reported that it
was their judament that Dartmouth & Acoaxet
monthly Meetings be set off & remain to Sandwich
Quarter & that Swansey monthly Meeting remain to
Rhode Island Quarter. This meeting approves there
of & directs that the said Quarterly Meetings be held
in future at the places & at the times fixed upon for last
year.

It appearing by an Epistle from the Meeting for
Sufferings in London to ours that a more particular
nomination of Correspondents than what is mentioned
in the Book of Discipline respecting the Meeting for
Sufferings is necessary, our friends Jacob Holt, Moses
Brown & William Rotch Junr are appointed for that
service.

The Committee on general services having proposed
the following minute, it is adopted by this Meeting & the
Clerk is Directed to send a Copy thereof to Sandwich Quar-
terly Meeting.

The situation of some of the members of Nantucket
monthly meeting removed to Dartmouth in Bristol
coming under consideration, It is recommended to San-
wich Quarterly Meeting to take into consideration, and
by a Committee or otherwise advise & assist Nantucket
Monthly Meeting in affording to those friends such
such authority advice & assistance as may enable them
to consummate Marriages amongst their Members in
a manner as near as may be to the orderly practice
of friends as the nature of their situation will admit
taking care that the marriage certificates be recorded in
Nantucket Monthly Meeting record Books.

The manner of making Reports coming under con-

consideration, it is the sense of this Meeting that when
Committees make Verbal Reports to any of our Meetings
that they all stand ingh, that are present, at the time
of delivering the same: thereby to manifest their assent
thereto.

Rhode Island Monthly Meeting is desired to
provide pasturing for Friends Horses for next Year-
ly Meeting, & present their account to the Treasurer
of this Meeting who is directed to pay the same.

It is concluded that in future our Yearly Meet-
ing for Worship begin at Portsmouth on fifth day
and at Newport on sixth day at the eleventh hours,
the meeting for business at the third hour, the meeting
for worship on first day in Newport, in the forenoon at
the tenth hour, & in the afternoon at the third hour.

This meeting adjourns to the 7th hour tomorrow morning.

16th met by adjournment.

The representatives being called are all present
that have heretofore attended.

Endorsments were made upon the Certificates of our
Esteemed friends Zacchariah Ferris, John Simpson, Ben-
jamin Worth, George Martin & Rebecca Jones expressing
that their Gospel Labours & exemplary conduct has been
to our edification & comfort, also upon the Certificates
of our friends Robert Johnson & James Mott, expressing
that their company has been acceptable to us & their
conduct exemplary.

Epistles to our brethren at their Yearly Meetings
at London Philadelphia & Westbury on Long Island
were presented by our Committee, which being read
& approved were signed by the Clerk.

Our friend John Talbot having attended the preceding
sittings of this meeting, now presented a Copy of a Minute
which has lately come to hand, from Concord Monthly
Meeting in Pennsylvania dated 3d of 6mo. expressive of their Unity
with him as an Elder & in his accompanying our friend
George Martin in his Religious Visit to these parts, and

an endorsment was made thereupon expressing that 1789
his company has been acceptable & his conduct exemplary

An Epistle to our Quarterly Meetings being laid before this meeting was read approved & signed by the Clerk.

The Clerk is directed to extract such minutes as are necessary to be transmitted to the Quarterly Meetings & forward by their Representatives.

Under a thankful sense of our heavenly fathers love mercifully extended to us, during the several sittings of this meeting whereby we have been enabled to transact the weighty affairs that have come before us in much brotherly love & condescension, we conclude and adjourn to next year, then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit.

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this year.

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 11th of the 6th mo: to the 16th of the same inclusive 1789

To the next Yearly Meeting in London.

Dear Friends

In a degree of that Love which unites the true followers of the Prince of peace dear affectionately salute you, and inform, that we received your written & printed Epistles of the 5th mo: last year, which were read in this Meeting to our edification & comfort.

It is with satisfaction we observe, that the favours continued to us, by the Father of mercies, are cause of rejoicing to you, as it is a mark of your affectionate sympathy, and brotherly Love, the Christian badge of true discipleship, and we fervently desire that we may so walk in circumspection & uprightness as to have a well grounded Hope of the continued extension of Divine favour, which we have in a good degree experienced in this our annual assembly, whereby we have been enabled to transact the affairs of the Church in Love and

concord. It is cause of thankfulness & comfort to us to be informed that there are among you those of the dear youth, who are so in Love with the Divine Law in their hearts, as to afford a comfortable prospect of a succession of faithful Labourers in the Church, may they be encouraged by the Elders & those of riper years in a steady attention to & reliance upon the Lord alone for their growth & establishment in Righteousness.

It is with satisfaction we have to inform you, that our Meeting for sufferings, since last year in conjunction with the Meeting for sufferings of New York, have presented Memorials to the Legislature of the State of Connecticut for abolishing the corrupt traffic to Africa for Slaves, which meeting the general approbation of the authority of that State, we were also addressed by the general association of their Ministers; a favourable Law prohibiting the Slave Trade was enacted. And it appearing that divers associations in this & the neighbouring States have been formed for the suppression of that iniquitous commerce, we have cause to believe that he whose tender mercies are over all his Works, is disposing the Hearts of the people of this Country to engage in the behalf of the African race. And it is with comfort that we observe an increasing concern prevails among you on that account.

Although by accounts received from our several Quarters many of our members appear deficient in in divers branches of our Christian Testimony, yet we have with satisfaction to remark, that there is a remnant among whom a good degree of Love & Unity prevails in each meeting, who are enabled to exercise the discipline in that meekness & wisdom, which is necessary for the preservation of good order & right authority in the Church.

We may also inform you that Truths Testimony against the unnecessary use of Spirituous Liquors has gained ground, and our labours have been so crowned with success therein, that we have to encourage all those,

who from a sense of the pernicious effects of its frequent use, may be engaged to labour for its removal, to persevere, believing that the Lords blessing will attend his faithful Labourers therein & as it becomes more extensively the care & concern of Society, it is our faith that it is the Lords purpose, that friends be instrumental in due time to raise a Standard to the Nations.

We have appointed our friends Jacob. Mott of Portsmouth Moses Brown Providence in the State of Rhode Island & William Rotch Junr. of New Bedford in the state of Massachusetts, as correspondents for our Meeting & desire you to name some friends on your side, to correspond with them when occasion may require.

With a degree of reverent thankfulness to the Father of Mercies for his favours conferred upon us, we conclude & are your friends & brethren

Signed by direction & on behalf of said Meeting by William Rotch Junr. Clerk

to the Meeting this Year.

From our Yearly Meeting for New England held on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 11th of 6th mo: to the 16th of the same 1789 inclusive.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia

Dear Friends.

Under a feeling sense of the Heavenly Fathers Love, renewedly extended unto us, in this our annual assembly, do we affectionately salute you, earnestly desiring that our epistolary communications may prove a means of cementing our hearts, uniting us in constant endeavours to promote the advancement of the cause of Righteousness, and building one another up in the most holy Faith.

We received your Epistle of last year which was truly acceptable, and afforded us encouragement in finding that many are concerned for the promotion of Truth & advancement of our Testimony, particularly the discouraging

1789 of the unnecessary use of Spirituous Liquors, the injurious effects of which have for a considerable time deeply affected our minds, and we have reason to hope that our concern has also received additional strength since last year.

Notwithstanding our minds have been much exercised on viewing the state of Society by the reports from the several Quarters in observing the many deficiencies that still remain among some of our members, Yet we have been comforted in believing that a considerable number are yet preserved Zealous for the cause & testimony of Truth, and our solicitations have been ardent, that the number of these may be increased that thereby our Israel may experience a journeying forward towards an inheritance of the promised Land.

We have been favoured with the company of several friends from yours & Westbury Yearly Meetings, whose Gospel labours have been comfortable & edifying to us.

Since last year application hath been made by our Meeting for Sufferings in conjunction with the Meeting for Sufferings of New York, to the Legislature of Connecticut on the subject of the Slave Trade, a petition from the General Association of their Ministers in that State, being also at the same time preferred, a Law was passed prohibiting their Citizens or Residents from being any way concerned in that unrighteous Traffick.

With a degree of reverent thankfulness to the author of all good in that he hath enabled us to transact the affairs of Society in brotherly condescension and concord, do we again salute you and bid you farewell

Signed by direction & on behalf of said
Meeting by W.m Rotch jun.r Clerk to the
" "
Meeting this Year.

From our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England, from the 11th of the 6th mo: to the 16th of the same inclusive. 1789

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held at Westbury on Long Island.

Dear Friends

In a degree of that ancient love that hath ever been the cement of the true Church & Family, in which we have been favoured to transact the weighty affairs that came before us, in brotherly Love & Concord, do we affectionately salute you, and inform that We have received your Epistle of this year, which was read to our edification & comfort.

By accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings we find defficiencies appear amongst us, yet we have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that there is a remnant preserved, who at this time have received encouragement to labour for the Repairing the breaches that have been permitted to make through the unwatchfulness of some amongst us & we ardently wish the number of those may encrease to the strengthening one another's hands, & press forward in an honest labour in the Lords Vineyard to remove those defficiencies apparent amongst us, and we have fresh cause to acknowledge the continuance of Divine Regard measurably experienced at this time whereby we have been excited to a renewed engagement of mind to stand faithful in the discharge of our duty in the several branches of our Christian Testimony.

There appears a tender & we trust a living concern at this time for the beloved Youth, that they may know in early life that the fear of the Lord is indeed the beginning of Wisdom and so dwell under the influence thereof as to be made in due time partakers of that Holy Faith that overcomes the World.

We have been favoured with the company of several Friends from Philadelphia & your yearly Meetings whose Gospel labours have been comfortable and edifying to us.

With a degree of reverent thankfulness to the author of all good for the favours extended to us in this our annual assembly, do we again affectionately salute you & are your friends & Brethren. Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by Wm Peter Junr Clerk this year.

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1789

A Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Newport for Rhode Island the 29th of 5th mo: 1789 concerning our esteemed friend Joseph Mitchell, Deceased.

He was born on the Island of Nantucket in the year 1741 of parents professing the truth with us, by whom he was educated in the same profession, but as we are not fully acquainted with many of the particulars of his life, until his removal to this Island, we shall give this account principally from what hath occured since that time, which was in the year 1781. when he became a member of this Meeting by Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of Greenwich, being recommended an approved Elder, and having for some time appeared in publick testimony, to the satisfaction of friends, & steadily attending to his Gift, he experienced a growth therein, and became a faithful and approved Minister, being a good example in plainness and simplicity, in Godliness & honesty, of whose self denying and abstemious life, we might mention many things that appeared in him, as the footsteps of one of the flock of the companions of the great Master; however to the view of some who were not enough circumcised in heart & ears, they might carry with them the appearance of austerity. He was a man in stature with a deep concern for the promotion of Truth, being favored with quick discerning & of remarkable Stability, grave in his deportment among men, and in religious Meetings, his countenance bespake solidity & reverence, in the attendance of which he was careful & diligent, & in his appearances in public testimony to the Truth, was attentive to the openings & closings of it, both in Meetings for Worship & Discipline, which rendered his services, savory & edifying.

He believed it required of him at a particular time to declare publicly in the Street of Newport, against the superfluities & extravagances of the people, which in obedience to what he apprehended to be his duty, he gave up unto. He was also concerned to write to the Legislature a Testimony Declarative of what had impressed his mind, respecting the peculiar care of the most high over those who

placed their dependance on him, and of his prospect of a
threatened scourge to those who continued to reject his Law,
which having communicated to the meeting for Sufferings
and having their approbation, presented it with his own hands.

He was also deeply concerned on account of that iniquitous
practice of making Slaves of the people of Africa, & of the in-
justice & cruelty exercised in many places, upon those
reduced to that condition, from a sense of which he became
zealously exercised that not any part of his conduct might
countenance that unrighteous gain of Oppression.

He was several times engaged in the weighty service of visiting the
families of Friends, in divers Monthly Meetings, in our Quarter,
and his labours in this service were also extended to Friends
out of the verge of it, which we believe were to the help & edifica-
tion of those he visited.

In the year 1784 with the concurrence of friends
he attended the Yearly Meeting on Long Island, and by
an endorsement on his Certificate it appears that his company
and services there were acceptable.

And having a concern on his mind to proceed
on a religious visit to Friends in Pennsylvania, the Jerseys
& parts adjacent, as Truth might open the way, and hav-
ing our Certificate for that purpose laid the same with
his concern before the Quarterly Meeting; who also having
unity with him therein, signified the same by an endors-
ment on his said Certificate, he went from home in
the 7th mo: last in order to proceed therein, and after visit-
ing the Meetings on Long Island, New York, & some parts
of the Jerseys, and several Meetings in Pennsylvania, to
the satisfaction of Friends as appears by their Certificates,
it pleased the Lord to put a period to his Labours, for
about the time he went into Pennsylvania, which was in
the latter part of the 8th month, he was taken of a fever, yet
continued in the service of his Religious visit until the
1st of 9th month, when his disorder had so prevailed, as to ren-
der him unable to proceed any longer in that service, and
increasing upon him, proved the means of his Dissolution he
died at the house of our friend Thomas Smith, in Buckingham.

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1789

in the County of Bucks the 27th of the 9th month, & was interred the 28th of the same month in Friends burying ground at Buckingham, as appears by a Testimony of Friends at their Quarterly Meeting held at Middletown in the County of Bucks in Pensylvania the 30th of the 11th mo: 1786 directed to this Meeting — by which it also appears that in the first part of his illness after he was confined, he laboured under deep exercise accompanied with increasing bodily infirmity, but was favoured to endure this trying dispensation, with patience and resignation, which was what he fervently desired, as appeared by his frequent expressions, and although in some stages of the disorder, it so operated as much to affect his intellectual faculties, yet he was preserved in an innocent state of mind, saying to a friend at a time of intermission of the fever, that he felt the good presence of his Master, which to him was comfortable. When the time of his Dissolution came he departed this Life, as one fallen to Sleep. Thus is the work of Righteousness, peace, and the effect of Righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid by John Williams Clerk
Alice Almy Clerk

The above Testimony respecting our esteemed friend Sarah Mitchell deceased having for some time lain before this Meeting in hopes of the way opening for some account to be collected of the progress of Divine Grace upon him from his first yielding to its holy visitations, until the account in the Testimony from Rhode Island Monthly Meeting commenced, but as no account has yet been found, from which such a testimony could be drawn, and not being easy any longer to detain this from the Yearly Meeting. It is concluded that the same be sent forward with our approbation, under a fresh sense of his Zeal, care, circumspection & usefulness in this meeting. The image & superscription of which Truth had impressed on his countenance, as well as the lively exercise under which he was frequently favoured

in our Meetings of Worship & Discipline, to the solid comfort & satisfaction of the Living body, we hope will long remain in our remembrance for our encouragement & perseverance in the line of Divine appointment, for the honour of that precious Truth, with which he was so eminently adorned — Signed in & on behalf of our Quarterly Meeting of Friends held at East Greenwich the 9th & 10th days of the 4th month 1789. by

Sylvester Wicks Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 11th of 6th mo to 16th same inclusive 1789.

To the Quarterly Meetings here belonging.

Dear Friends

We have duly received your several communications and attended to the State of Society as exhibited by your answers to the Queries, and with a solicitous concern for your advancement, proceed to offer a few remarks to which we desire your serious attention.

The formation of Religious Society being principally designed firstly to bear a public testimony for God and his truth in such manner as we are convinced of the same, secondly to be mutually helpful in promoting one another in an holy consistant walking, the deficiencies, manifested by your answers in those particulars hath been afflicting to our minds, especially respecting the unprecedented manner in which you have transmitted an account of the attendance of your Meetings: That friends in this day of Light wherein we have liberty to attend to our respective religious concerns, unmolested, should be so inattentive to a principle upon which the being of us, as a people, appears to have essentially commenced at a time when faithfulness to its dictates was attended with sufferings unto Death, manifests a declension, which as it confers reproach upon the individuals who are the objects of complaint, so it calls aloud for the interposition of Society to put a stop to a conduct which if

persisted in will terminate in its dissolution. Oh! Friends, that a people whose ancestors accounted nothing near or dear when it came in competition with their religious testimonies, and who professs themselves bound by Divine conviction faithfully to maintain the same, should so flagrantly swerve aside from the line of their duty, trampling upon the sufferings of those who have gone before them, cannot but be offensive to that God, who hath signally manifested himself for their help.

The right administring of Society Labour being a matter of much concernment and perceiving that this essential service of the Church is not always seasonably administered, we are concerned to advise that Quarterly & Monthly Meetings take due care in this respect, not suffering deviations to remain unnoticed until they become cases which demand the attention of overseers, but that friends be careful to guard against every appearance of Evil, timely cautioning the inexperienced & unwary, & encouraging all in a conduct conformable to our holy profession: To which purpose we desire that suitable friends may be appointed or reappointed, in the several Monthly Meetings as way may open, to exercise a Godly care on behalf of Society in these respects, agreeable to Discipline.

We also further desire, that above all the families of the Earth, professs to believe in & frequently exhort to an inward retirement, in order to be acquainted with the Divine Will, that we be careful to be found in the practice of the same, not only when assembled in our public collective capacities, but when at home with our families.

The right education of our Youth being a subject of concern to this Meeting and feeling desirous that they may be brought up in the nurture & admonition of the Lord; we tenderly advise that parents & those to whose care the education of youth is committed, be vigilant & careful in the discharge of a trust so important, train up a child in the way he should go, & when he is old

he will not depart from it", a great means of the present 1788
defection, in the youth of our religious Society we believe
is the want of an early care being extended towards them,
we therefore fervently exhort that early endeavours be ex-
tended ~~towards them~~ educate our Children in an orderly
learning manner, teaching them obedience to their Parents
& a respectful demeanour, when before their elders & supe-
riors, which would have a tendency to initiate them
into that stilness & reverent attention in the attendance
of our religious Meetings, which our principles inculcate
as that which the nature of Divine Worship requires.

And we recommend that the advice contained in our
books of Discipline under the Heads Children, & Parents and
Guardians be read in each Monthly & Preparative Meet-
ings, & it is tenderly advised that friends be renewedly
engaged to labour after the necessary qualifications to
discharge the duties therein recommended.

Signed by direction & on behalf of said Meeting
by Wm Rotch Junr: Clerk to
the Meeting this year.

For List of the Members of the Select Meeting see
the latter part of this Book.

1790

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held
on Rhode Island for New England, began at Portsmouth
the 10th & at Newport the 15th of the 6mo: 1790 in the Mornings
for Worship & the afternoon of the 15th for Discipline.

The Accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings being
presented, the Friends Union, named for Representatives
are for Rhode Island, Isaac Lawton, David Buffum, Ido-
nijah Upton, Thomas Hazard & Sylvester Wicks.

Salem Jeremiah Tucker John Sabin, Hezajah Purrington,
Matthew Purrington & Remington Tobby.

Sandwich, Jeremiah Austin Junr: John Wing Junr Josiah

1790

Wilbur, James Davis, Isaac Keen, Jethro Mitchell, Joseph Rogers & Obed Davis. Who are all present except Jeremiah Austin, John Wing Jun. Jethro Mitchell & Joseph Rogers whose absence appears by accounts received to be from indisposition of body & sickness in their families.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs in their account that they have approved the appointment of Freelove Jarvis & Ruth Sherman to the station of Elders also Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that they have approved the appointment of Joseph Wing, Susannah Russell & Abigail White to the same station

By accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings it appears that they have forwarded their respective proportions of the Yearly Meeting stock to our treasurer.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having forwarded a testimony from Smithfield Monthly Meeting concerning Susannah Comstock deceased, it was read & Jeremiah Tucker, John Bailey, Paul Greene, William Rotch and Samuel Rodman, are appointed to inspect the same & report their judgment of the best mode of disposing thereof at a future setting of this Meeting.

Said Meeting having also desired some alteration in the time & place of holding two of their Meetings it was considered, and agreeable to their request, it is concluded that for one Year, the Meeting which has usually been held at Smithfield upper meeting house, in the 2nd mo be held at Portsmouth on the 5th day before the second sixth day in the eighth month, & that held at Portsmouth in the 10th month be held at same time at Smithfield upper house. at it is concluded that their next Meeting be held agreeable to this conclusion. and the clerk is directed to forward to that Quarterly Meeting & to each Monthly Meeting therein a Copy of this minute for their government.

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting having requested that their Meeting in 11th month may be held one day earlier than the time heretofore fixed, it is accordingly concluded that said Meeting be in future held on the ninth first sixth day.

Our beloved friend Joshua Brown attended this Meeting with Certificate from Nottingham Monthly Meeting Pennsylvania 30th of 1th mo & London Grove Quarterly Meeting 16th of 2d mo. last expressing their unity with his Ministry & concern to make a Religious visit to Friends in New York & New England. Likewise his Companion Jacob Mauk attended this meeting with Certificate of concurrence from Gravesford Monthly Meeting Pennsylvania 4th of 5th mo last. 1795

Also our beloved friend Benjamin Swett attended this Meeting with Certificate from Haddonfield Monthly Meeting New Jersey 10th of 5 mo. last & Gloucester & Salem Quarterly Meeting 17th of same, expressing their Unity with his Ministry & with his Religious concern to visit friends in New England.

Also our beloved friend Hugh Judge attended this Meeting with Certificate from Wilmington Monthly Meeting 13th of 5th mo and Concord Quarterly Meeting the 8th of 2nd mo. expressing their Unity with his Ministry & with his concern to visit friends in New England.

Likewise our beloved friend Daniel Offley attended this Meeting with Certificate from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting for the Southern District 28th of 4mo & Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting 3d of 5th mo: last expressing their Unity with his Ministry & concurrence with his concern to make a Religious Visit to Friends in New York & New England. Also his Companion John Mellor attended this Meeting with Certificate of concurrence from said Monthly Meeting 26th of 5th mo. last.

Also our beloved friend Solomon Underhill attended this Meeting with Copy of a minute of Westbury Mo: Meeting of 5th of 5th mo. expressing their Unity with his Ministry & concurrence with his concern to attend this meeting.

Our beloved friend Elizabeth Drinker also attended this Meeting & produced a Certificate from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting dated 30th of 4th mo & Philadelphia Quarterly Meeting 3d of 5 mo. expressive of their Unity with her Ministry & concurrence with her concern to make a Religious Visit to Friends in New England. Also her Companion Hannah Yorke attended this Meeting with

a Certificate from Philadelphia. Monthly Meeting for the Northern District 25th of 5mo: expressing their Unity with him as an Elder & approbation of his accompanying our said friend. . . . which were . . to our satisfaction.

This Meeting adjourns to the 10th hour tomorrow.

12th day met by adjournment.

The Representatives being being called are all present that attended yesterday.

The Representatives having proposed that William Roth Junr. be reappointed Clerk & Benjamin Freeborn assistant they are accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

The Queries were read with Answers from the several Quarterly Meetings, which opening the State of Society, many judicious seasonable remarks were thereupon made, & recommended to the solid attention of Friends.

This Meeting adjourns to the third hour this afternoon.

Afternoon Met by adjournment.

The general printed Epistle of our Friends & brethren at their Yearly Meeting in London also one directed to this Meeting, together with Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia & Westown on Long Island, were read to our Edification & Comfort.

William Roth, Job Chalkley, Daniel Howland Junr. Thomas Arnold, Job Scott, William Savery, Samuel Bowman, George Dillwyn, Obadiah Williams & Moses Brown, are appointed to prepare, Essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings also to our Quarterly Meetings, & endorsement upon the Certificates of our friends now present from the Western Yearly Meetings. & Minute to transcribe the Epistles now received for our Quarterly Meetings.

The matter referred from our last Meeting respecting the manner of signing Certificates being again brought before us, after solid consideration We appoint Thomas Hazard, Jacob Hall, John Saber, Thomas Paterson, Jeremiah Barker, Isaac Lawton, Amos Davis, Silvester Wicks, Cumings Law, Gabriel Hobbs & Caleb Greene, to consider the same & report their judgment thereupon to a future sitting.

1790

We appoint John Hadwen, John Haviland & Daniel Newall to audit our accounts with the Treasurer, report the State thereof & propose a suitable sum to be raised for the ensuing year.

Moses Brown not yet having returned all the Books & papers belonging to this Meeting, The Meeting for Sufferings & Select Meeting are desired to see that their Books & papers not in use be deposited in the Yearly Meeting Chest.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the Year past were presented & read and their attention to the business which came before them appears satisfactory to this meeting. And the same Friends are again continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing Year, & to act in that Capacity agreeable to the former appointment & Constitution of said Meeting, and George Howe & Daniel Aldrich are appointed in addition to them.

This Meeting adjourns to the 10th hour on second day next. 14th day Meh by adjournment.

The Representatives being called are present that have heretofore attended.

The Committee to audit our accounts with the Treasurer report they find a balance in his Hands of One Hundred & eighty pounds, four shillings & eleven pence half penny. And propose the Sum of Thirty pounds to be raised for the ensuing Year. Which is approved & the Quantity. Meetings are requested as usual to forward their following proportions to the Treasurer viz.

Rhode Island £12.16.6 Salem £6 - Sandwich £11.3.6

A Report was received from our Committee which being duly considered with some alteration is approved & is as follows, That Certificates granted by Monthly Meetings to Ministering Friends when concern may extend out of the Limits of our Yearly Meeting, may be best to be signed at large in the Monthly Meetings by Friends in their freedom, both Men & Women.

This Meeting having experienced Manifold inconveniences to arise from the absence of Committees during a Sitting, Now Concludes that in future no Committee appointed in the Yearly Meeting do absent themselves from the Sittings thereof without consent from the Meeting.

The Committee to examine the Testimonies from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, report they think it may with safety be recorded it is accordingly directed to be recorded.

We appoint David Anthony, Joseph Congdon, David Irish, John Chace, Jonas Collins and Elisha Arnold, to take into consideration the matter brought up from the Meeting for Sufferings respecting the state of the Yearly Meeting School and its Funds, and report their sense thereof at a future sitting.

This Meeting adjourns to the 5th hour this afternoon

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The Committee upon the matter respecting the Yearly Meeting School and its Funds report that it is their sense & judgment that the matter be referred to the Meeting for Sufferings, which is approved, and they are authorised to act thereupon on behalf of this Meeting as they may see best.

The important subject of Education being weightily brought before this meeting, & a concern being manifested that a greater attention may be excited among friends towards that necessary duty, both with respect to our Yearly Meeting School, and also that Friends may be engaged in each Monthly Meeting to revive the concern upon this subject heretofore recommended by this Meeting, We appoint James Davis, James Needham, Rufus Smith, Jeremiah Tucker, John Taber, George Comstock, Thomas Hazard, Job Scott, Daniel Aldrich, Coen Davis, Caleb Green Jeremiah Austin, Junr. Daniel Newhall, Jacob Mott, Samuel Hodgman, William Rines, Matthew Purrington & Remington Tabby, solidly to consider the matter and likewise to consider in what way the Funds of the Yearly Meeting School may most beneficially be appropriated consistent with the intention of the Donor & report as they may find best.

Adjourned to the second hour tomorrow afternoon.

15th day met by adjournment

A report was received from the Committee appointed yesterday which being approved, is agreed to and is as follows

That the direction of the Yearly Meeting School & its Funds be submitted to the Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, to be by them conducted in such manner as may appear

most likely to forward the important object of its institution, 1790
either by continuing its vacation during the term before
mentioned, or putting it in motion upon the foundation
of its own Funds, which Funds we are of opinion ought
not to be diverted into any other channel than for the support
thereof, with such subscriptions as Friends in perfect freedom
may be inclined to make from the recommendations of the
Quarterly Meetings. Also that the Quarterly Meetings be desired
to impress upon their members the necessity of attending to
the education of their Children by giving as liberal encou-
ragement as their abilities will admit to the establishment
& promotion of Schools within the verge of the Monthly Meetings
& the particular Neighbourhoods of Friends, agreeable to
our discipline & former advices upon this interesting sub-
ject.

Endorsments were made upon the Certificates of our
friends Rosina Brown, Daniel Offley, Benjamin Sweet
Hugh Judge & Elizabeth Drinker, & upon the Copy of the Minute of
our friend Solomon Updegraff, expressing that their company
& services have been acceptable to us. also upon the Certificates
of our friends John Morton, Jacob Mauk & Hannah Yerkes ex-
pressing that their company has also been acceptable to us
which were approved & signed by the Clerk.

Epistles to the Yearly Meeting of our friends & brethren of London
Philadelphia & Westbury on Long Island, also one to our Quarterly
Meeting which being approved are directed to be transcribed and
signed by the Clerk.

This Meeting being deeply affected with the consideration
of the continuation of the Slave Trade in New England,
do recommend to the Meeting for Sufferings a diligent at-
tention to this distressing subject, and that when any favourable
opportunity may present, they are requested to proceed in further
application on behalf of those suffering fellowmen, as Truth
may open the way, either to the General Congress or to either
of the State Legislatures in New England.

This Meeting having experienced through the several

sittings

sittings hath a degree of the Heavenly fathers love extended for our preservation & help; whereby we have been enabled to transact the weighty affairs that have come before us, in concord & condescension, under a thankful sense thereof. We conclude and adjourn to next year, then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit.

Signed on
behalf of the Meeting
Wm Rotch Junr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends

Your epistles of sixth month last year have been read in this our Annual Assembly, & having been favord with the renewed extendings of the Fathers love. We therein affectionately salute you.

The information you give of the imprisonment of two Friends for refusing to find substitutes in the Militia and one on account of Tythes, hath excited our sympathy, and desires have been raised, that you may be enabled in faithfulness & meekness, to hold up the Gospel testimony against the Antichristian yoke of Tythes & bearing of Arms to the power of Truth, and in the Lords time, to the removal of those impositions in a Government, otherwise honourable for their support of religious Liberty. And at the same time we may acknowledge it affords cause of gratitude in us to the father of all our mercies, as well as unto the Governments under which we live, that we are at this time free from those burdens.

The account you give, that the subject of the African Slave Trade is before Parliament & of the increase of advocates in behalf of the African Race, affords us incouragement for a perseverance in Labour until the unrighteous Commerce in our fellow men shall be abolished, & we hope & trust the work goes forward with us, & will prosper, as those who are concerned upon to engage in it, are careful to feel, and keep to the antient everlasting foundation.

By the accounts brought up from the several Quarterly

Meetings it appears that love & unity generally subsists among
friends, that a care rests on the minds of a number in each
meeting for regular dealing with offenders in support of our
Christian Discipline & notwithstanding the open defection
of some from the simplicity of Truth, hath made it necessary
to lay judgment to the line, & there have been added to our
society by convincement since last year.

It is cause of humble thankfulness that the Lord
is still continuing to extend his love over the various
parts of his Heritage, and by the influence thereof is constrain-
ing his Ministering Servants to yield to his invitation to visit
their brethren, divers of whom from our neighbouring Year-
ly Meetings are now present, whose concern extends to the
branches of this Meeting. May they with those on the like
Message among you, be engaged to seek for & be careful to at-
tend in Gospel Authority, that instruction, edification and
comfort may be administered to the Churches & may those
to whom the ministry be given to receive the Message of Truth,
through whatever instrument the same may be conveyed.

A concern has been spread in this Meeting for the pre-
servation of the dear Youth in our Society, and desires have
been raised that the love of Christ with which many of them
have been graciously visited, may from time to time be
reverently waited for, that their minds being humbled thereby
they may witness their strength to be renewed in that ability
which alone enables to follow on to know the Lord, & to obey his
holy requirings.

Having been favoured to transact the business which came
before us in Brotherly Love & Concord, We conclude in the fresh
extendings of the Fathers Love your friends & Brethren.

Signed by direction of said Meeting by

Wm Rotch Junr. Clerk to
the Meeting this year.

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To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

With gratitude we have to acknowledge, that although weakness and various deficiencies remain among us, the Lord has graciously evinced that his compassion fails not, by the mercy condescending to spread over us the wing of his love; under which we have been enabled to transact the business of our annual Assembly in brotherly love and condescension.

We rejoice in being made sensible that of ourselves we can do nothing, and that as we depend upon the Lord alone, and bring to our own understanding, He is often pleased to appear for our help, and to raise up from the depths of poverty, the spirits of those who trust in him; and these of whatever rank or Station, we are abundantly confirmed he will not leave nor forsake

The subject of the African Slave Trade, yet sorrowfully continued in this place, so often theretofore mentioned in our correspondence, being again revived & weightily impressed on some of our minds, we think it still worthy a place in our communications, and renewed desires were raised, that none of us might relax in our concern, or exertions therein, We hope & believe the work goes forward & will prosper, as those who are, and may be wrought upon to engage in it, are active to see and feel, to the ancient, everlasting foundation.

Your truly acceptable Epistle of last year, was read in this meeting, we trust to the encouragement of many exercised minds, who rejoice, in believing, that as with you, so with all the World over, the Shepherd of Israel is gracious in affording help adequate to every duty, & crowning the gathering of his people by his holy presence.

It is comfortable to find you are enabled to press forward with renewed animation, in promotion of the right education of the Youth, it is a subject that still claims our attention,

and although some discouragements & mainin the way of our friends we are desirous to continue our endeavours and to discharge our duty therein.

The use of Spirituous Liquors except for Medicine & the dealing in them has & will some further discouragement among us. some who out of respect to the judgment & advice of friends have given up dealing in them, & their moderation as they apprehended, & with some regard to the use made thereof have found satisfaction therein, & we hope & believe there are but few among us, who now continue to deal in them.

Our dear friends it is our fervent desire & travail that the dear Youth, with us & you & every where may thro' obedience to the divine will, be wisely choosing & endeavouring to secure a portion & inheritance in the unchangable Truth, an inheritance which will not decay with time, it will increase in old age to the faithful, & will be their comfort crown & Diadem.

With desires for an happy increase in this blessed experience, and therein a faithful advancement in the line of duty, We salute you in a measure of the Love of the Gospel & remain Your friends & brethren.

Signed on behalf & by direction of said Meeting
by Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to the
Meeting this year.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Nantucket in the State

Dear Friends

In an humbling sense of the renewed extendings of heavenly regard, at this time vouchsafed, in this our annual assembly, we have been favoured to transact the weighty business which came before us, in a good degree of brotherly harmony & concord -

Your acceptable epistle of this year has been received by us, the contents whereof have been refreshing to our minds, & we have been comforted in finding that the is through the continued influence of best wisdom, an exercised remnant, who are kept alive in the Churches, with whom the living

living, baptized members in this our solemn gathering, have felt themselves united in a near sympathy and travail; that they may be encouraged to stand fast in the faith, & that the careless & lukewarm, by beholding their stedfastness, may be provoked upon to draw nigh unto him, who continues in mercy to invite them both immediately & instrumentally to come out of the paths of vanity, by turning at the reproofs of instruction, which is the way of life.

Our gratitude is already excited to the great author of all good from our communications & a feeling sense that the concern relative to the commerce in, & pernicious use of, distilled spirituous liquors among friends, is increasing: As well as for the attention that hath been again manifested towards the commerce in, & slavery of the African race, and we ardently desire that both we & you, may be favoured to keep under the tender impressions that have mutually inclined our hearts to commiserate the suffering situation of that oppressed people; by stedfastly endeavouring to cultivate a feeling mind, susceptable of the touches of the divine finger.

We hope & trust if we are thereby guided into the sacred paths of duty unmovable upon us, that the followers of Christ shall with joyful heart, one day know the total extinction of this abominable traffic, so disgraceful to the Christian name — Let us therefore renew our courage & our confidence, Nor suffer our well meant exertions to receive a check from the opposition that may appear & arise against us from a combination of wicked or selfish men, knowing that he, that is for us is greater, is able & will in his own time effect his gracious purposes in the Earth.

Signed by direction & on behalf of said Meeting

by [illegible] Clerk to the Meeting this year.

To the Quarterly Meetings belonging.

Dear Friends

We have again been favoured through the kindness of divine providence to meet together in this our annual assembly. And upon receiving a representation of the State of Society, as exhibited by your answers to the queries which come duly to hand, have been led into a close & solid consideration thereof, & under a sense of the prevalence of weakness & inattention, so conspicuously apparent, many minds have been deeply affected.

It is in vain friends, for any to suppose, that a Profession in the belief of even the Divine & saving truth without being under its influence, & being subject to its Government will enable them to conduct with consistency, or entitle them to divine Acceptance.

It is in vain for any to suppose, that God will be mocked, that he will vouchsafe the revelation of his Mind & Will concerning them & yet look down with indifference upon their Supineness in the discharge of their Religious & relative Duties.

The neglect of many in the due attendance of Meetings for Divine Worship, & the want of a proper sense of the Reverence and solemnity which ought to accompany the mind, in the discharge of that Duty is important, in some that do attend, instances by their irreverent & indecent Habit of Sleeping when thus assembled, among other particulars have been subject of concernment to this Meeting. It is therefore earnestly recommended, that faithful Friends, in their respective meetings endeavour to lend a helping hand to those, and discharge themselves faithfully for their recovery, both individuals & representatives of Society.

The right education of our Youth, hath also again closely claimed the attention of this meeting, and under an apprehension of a great remissness in some, to whose care this exercise & important trust is committed, we feel our minds engaged fervently to exhort, that such, whether parents or others deeply consider the importance of the subject, and its interesting concernment to all, & labour with unremitting diligence for suitable qualifications to discharge this duty to the benefit of the youth, & their own acquittance and justification, when solemn inquisition shall be made & we greatly desire that Quarterly & Monthly Meetings may have

a watchful care over their members in this respect, & if there are any who are unable to give their Children such School learning as may be necessary to fit them for business, that they be liberal in their endeavours to have the same suitably effected, at the expense of Society.

The situation of the poor, distressed Africans who continue to be the unhappy subjects of a barbarous commerce prosecuted by cruel and avaricious Men, have been renewedly the Objects of our deep felt sympathy & concern, & engage us to recommend that Friends continue their attention to this subject, in such manner, as may be most likely to lead to ameliorate their sufferings, & further remove the guilt of this complicated iniquity from the Land, not letting the exertions of others, tho' it is cause of thankfulness that there are advocates raised up of other Denominations to plead this cause, produce any relaxation on our part, but rather animate & encourage us to, however, & avail ourselves of every opportunity, as may, may open, to promote the relief of this deeply afflicted part of the human Race, whose sufferings, we firmly believe have noticed & whose cries have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

The inexplicit manner in which some of the Queries are answered hath also been noticed, & Quarterly & Mo. Monthly Meetings, are desired to be more careful in this respect, & that endeavours be used, that the state of every description of Friends be contained in the answers, & when the Query is composed of divers particulars, that a regard to each be particularly observed, & in cases of deficiencies, that the part in which the deficiency is, explicitly mentioned.

And dear friends as Truth is profitable to direct in all things, we touch you earnestly, labour to be circumscribed within the limits of its Testimony, even in your Temporal concerns, for there is no real safety, but in following its dictates & in going only as it leadeth, for want of due attention to this Divine Principle, many have stepped aside & continuing destitute of this best direction, have brought embarrassment

upon the misuses & disreputation upon our Society, in part- 1790
cular we export those who are concerned in Commerce to be upright in their Entries, & punctual in the payment of Duties, that so the pernicious consequences attendant on an illicit conduct may not be charged upon us as a people, but that our regard & Government in part evinced by our faithfulness in this respect may be preserved inviolate.

The subject of the Yearly Meeting School coming under consideration, & feeling desires that the benevolent object of its Institution may in due time be rightly experienced, which at present, for want of sufficient Funds is evidently superseded, recommend to such who feel their minds disposed to Contribute, in freedom for this purpose, to afford their assistance, that the labour & concern heretofore bestowed upon this object, be not wholly lost for want of suitable Aid, by its failure occasion reproach to Society & thereby increase the burthen & exercise of many honestly disposed friends among us.

Whilst this subject occupies our minds dear Friends we cannot omit mentioning a concern that has spread among us for the increase of domestic Education throughout our Yearly Meeting. That Schools in the verge of Monthly Meetings and neighbourhoods of Friends under the inspection of Committees agreeable to our Discipline may experience a more liberal promotion, let us be incited to this necessary care & duty to our tender Offspring, not only by the relation we bear to them & the love we have for them but by the example of other Societies. That we who make a high profession may not seem negligent in inculcating useful Learning with a good Education as an aid to morality & Virtue, which hath often been found to be a guard to both. — Signed on behalf of our said Meeting

by Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to the
Meeting this Year.

1791

At our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England began at Portsmouth the 9th & at Newport the 10th of sixth month 1791 in the mornings for Worship & the afternoon of the 10th for Discipline.

The accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings being presented the friends therein named for Representatives and for Rhode Island, William Buffum, George Comstock, Thomas Hazard, Isaac Lawton, Moses Brown, Paul Greene, Benjah Upton & Isa Smith.

Salem, Daniel Gove, Nathan Reed, John Pratt, Paul Rogers, John Tabor, Jeremiah Tucker & John Winslow.

Sandwich Jeremiah Austin, John Wing Junr Peleg Mitchell, William Brown, Prince Gifford, John Bailey Jeremiah Austin Junr & William Rotch Junr. Who being called are all present except George Comstock.

A number of the Representatives having met, & agreed to the nameing William Rotch Junr for Clerk & Benjamin Freeborn for Assistant, which being approved by this meeting they are accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

Our beloved friend Samuel Emlen attended this meeting with Certificate from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting for the Northern District 24th of 5th mo 1791 expressing their Unity with his Ministry & concurrence in his concern to attend this & some other meetings in New York & New England.

Also our Beloved friend Thomas Scattergood attended this meeting with a Certificate from the same monthly Meeting expressing their unity with him as a Minister & with his concern to attend this & some other meetings in the adjacent parts Likewise his Companion Caleb Cresson Moved this meeting with a Certificate of concurrence from the same monthly meeting, all which were read to satisfaction

Our beloved friends Mary Ridgway & Jane Watson from Ireland attended this meeting & presented their Certificates one each the former from Mountmellick Monthly Meeting the 10th of 4th mo: & the latter from Edenderry Monthly Meeting 22d of the same 1791 expressive of their near Unity with

their Gospel Ministry & affectionate sympathy with them in their concern to visit friends in America, likewise con-curring Certificates for each of them from the Quarterly Meeting for Leinster Province held in Dublin 1st & 5mo & from the half years Meeting of Ministers & Elders for Ireland held in Dublin the 28th day of same month 1789, which were read to our solid satisfaction and our brotherly sympathy is excited towards them.

Our Esteemed friend Sarah Lundy attended this Meeting & produced a Certificate from Ringwood Monthly Meeting 14th: 10th mo. 1790 expressing their approbation of her Ministry & unity with her concern to pay a religious visit to Friends & others in Novascotia & New England & a Certificate of concurrence from Shrewsbury & Rahway Quarterly Meeting 10mo 25. 1790 Likewise Our esteemed friend Elizabeth Martin her Companion attended with a minute from Rahway & Plainfield monthly Meeting 19th: 5th: mo. last expressing their Unity with her as an Elder & concurrence in her accompanying our said friend.

Our friend William Shotwell attended this meeting with Copy of a Minute from Rahway & Plainfield monthly Meeting 18 of 11 mo. 1791 expressing their Unity with him as an elder & with his accompanying our friends Sarah Lundy & Companion.

Our friend Jesse Copeland having accompanied our friends Mary Pidgeon & Jane Watson to this Meeting produced a Certificate of concurrence from the monthly Meeting held at the Western branch, of Isle of Wight County Virginia dated 27th of 2d month last.

Our friend Joshua Sharpless attended this meeting & presented a Copy of a minute of Concord Monthly Meeting Pensylvania 4th of 5th mo last expressing their Unity with him as an Elder & with his concern to attend this Meeting.

Also our friend Job Willits attended this Meeting with a minute of concurrence from Jericho Monthly Meeting 19th of 5 mo last.

Our beloved friend Hugh Judge attended this Meeting with the Certificate presented last year since which time he hath been engaged in Gospel labours in most of the meetings & many families in our Yearly Meeting to good Satisfaction.

Likewise our friend Richard Mott now Companion to our friend Hugh Judge attended with a minute of Concurrence from Purchase Monthly Meeting 13th of 1st mo last.

Also our friend William Mitchell attended with a Copy of a minute of Concurrence from Nine partners Monthly Meeting 20th of 5th mo last. All which were acceptably read.

By accounts from our Several Quarterly Meetings it appears that their several proportions of the Yearly Meeting Stock has been directed to be forwarded to the Treasurer.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs in their account that they have concurred with South Kingston Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Peter Hoxie, Robert Hazard son of John, Simeon Perry, Daniel Wilbor & Thomas Wilbor Junr: & with Greenwich Monthly Meeting in the appointment of John Langford & Anna Greene to the Station of Elders.

Also that they have approved the publick Ministry of Israel Sabin recommended by Uxbridge Monthly Meeting and that of Job Chalanor recommended by Rhode Island Monthly Meeting.

Salem Quarterly Meeting in their account informs that they have concurred with Dover Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Moses Dow, John Buffum, Nathan Beede, Joseph Meader, Deborah Rogers, Sarah Beede, With Falmouth Monthly Meeting in the appointment of William Winslow Ebenezer Winslow, Josiah Rogers, Hannah Rogers, Mary Estes, Rachel Pinkham, Isaiah Tucker, Phebe Winslow & Lydia Winslow, and with Hampton Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Daniel Gove, Joseph Philbrick and Martha Gove to the Station of Elders.

They likewise propose for our Consideration "Whether a "place more suitable & Central may not be had for holding "our Yearly Meeting", which proposition is referred to the Committee to be appointed for the general Services of Society.

It appearing by the accounts from two of our Quarterly Meet-
ings, that several Matters of the general concern of Society
are recommended to this meeting, We therefore appoint
John Taber, William Burgum, Moses Brown, Amos Collins,
Richard Dame, Nathaniel Aldrich, Thomas Hazard Je-
remiah Thacher, John Wing Junr. Daniel Newall, Benjamin
Buffington, Isaac Lawton, Samuel Hazzey, Jethro Mitchell
Daniel Howland Junr. Samuel Rodman, Jobs Scott & Jeremiah
Austin to take into consideration the recommendations of
the Quarterly Meetings, & such other matters as may from time
to time during the sitting of this Meeting come before them, &
report thereupon. —

Epistles from our Brethren at their Yearly Meetings of
London & Philadelphia of last year, & of Westbury on Long
Island of the present year, were read to our comfort and
edification. And William Almy, Caleb Greene, Paul Rogers
William Brown, George Arnold, Micajah Collins, Daniel
Howland Junr. Royal Southwick, David Williams, Elisha Thorn-
ton, Chad Smith & Samuel Rodman, are appointed to prepare
essays of Epistles to those Meetings also to our Quarterly Meet-
ings, endorsements for the Certificates of our Friends present
on Religious Visits & to transcribe the Epistles for our several
Quarterly Meetings.

Joseph Collins, Clark Rodman, John Howland, Daniel
Jove, & Richard Dame, are appointed to Audit our accounts
with the Treasurer, report the State thereof & also report a sum
necessary to be raised the ensuing Year.

This Meeting adjourns to the 11th hour tomorrow morning.

11th. day met by adjournment.

The Queries were read, & Answers from the several Quarterly
Meetings.

This Meeting adjourns to the 11th hour on second day next
the 13th instant —

13th day met by adjournment. The representatives being
called are all present that have heretofore attended.

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The Committee on General services having deliberated upon the proposition relative to the place of holding the Yearly Meeting in future, recommend it being deferred till next Yearly Meeting, which being approved is accordingly referred to that Meeting for further consideration.

The following minutes in addition to our discipline, being the result of the deliberations of the same Committee, and Meeting our approbation are adopted Viz.t

It is agreed that if any Friends shall marry contrary to the good order established among us, being previously cautioned by the Overseers, that the Monthly Meeting, where such belong proceed to make a minute of denial and Testify against them.

And where instances occur where a man & woman both members of our Society, shall so marry, & from the circumstances of their being members not suspected of deviating therefrom, precaution & advice against it may not have been extended, that they be without delay in like manner testified against. This meeting considering these acts to be deliberate, & that thereby Monthly Meetings are warranted in proceeding in this Summary way. We nevertheless exhort Overseers & all concerned Friends not to suffer a relaxation of their vigilence & care, but rather to double their diligence, that those disreputable practices may wholly be discouraged among us. And that Overseers, who may visit Friends on account of disorderly company keeping for the purpose of marriage, without the desired joyful success, give early information to Monthly Meetings previous to Marriage.

The foregoing is directed to be entered in all our Books of Discipline under the Head Marriage.

This Meeting adjourns to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The Meeting for sufferings is requested to subscribe for Thirty six Collins' Edition of the Bible at this meeting, & procure, that they distribute one to each Monthly Meeting as soon

as may be, after their receipt, & that the remainder be subject to their disposal.

Upon considering the Arrangment of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, it is concluded that it be held for the Year ensuing in the manner & at the times concluded on last Year.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the year past, were read, and their attention to the subjects that necessarily came before them, appears to general acceptance, and the same friends are continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, and to act in that capacity agreeable to the former appointment & constitution of said Meeting. And Paul Rogers is appointed in addition to them.

Adjourned to the second hour tomorrow afternoon.

14th: met by adjournment

The Committee to audit our accounts with the Treasurer Report they find on settlement with him, balance in his hands £104.18.5, ½, and yet due from several Monthly Meetings £10.4.1 of last years stock, & propose for the ensuing year the raising fifty pounds, Which meeting our approbation the Quarterly Meetings are desired to forward their several proportions Viz: Rhode Island £21.7.7, Salem £13 and Sandwich £18.12.5.

The following report was received from the general Committee which being approved is adopted, as follows,

We having taken into consideration the circumstances of the Meeting houses belonging to Sandwich Quarterly Meeting mentioned in their accounts, are of Opinion that the Quarterly Meeting are of opinion that the Quarterly Meeting cannot at this time with ease interfere in the matter, further than to recommend to friends who experience immediate inconvenience from the interruptions at those houses to endeavour as much as possible to dwell in the patience becoming our holy profession, until their circumstances either outwards or way may open with satisfactory clearness to obtain relief.

This Meeting having received a respectful address from a Committee of the Congregational Ministers in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, informing of their having petitioned the Congress of the United States, "praying that they would take suitable measures

"that no Edition of the Bible or its Translation be published
"in America without its being carefully inspected and
"certified to be free from Error. expressing a desire that our
"Society with those of other Christian denominations may
"make similar applications". Which being maturely de-
liberated upon, the desires manifested by them that the pu-
rity of the Sept may be preserved meets our approbation
yet not finding our minds impressed at this time with
a necessity of such application from us. We appoint Moses
Brown to inform them thereof, acknowledging in our
behalf that the benevolent sentiments expressed in their
address obtained our friendly acceptance.

Endorsements were made upon the Certificates of our beloved
friends Samuel Emlen & Thomas Scattergood also a Certificate
was granted in behalf of our friend Hugh Judge, Certifying
that their Gospel Labours have been acceptable and edifying
to us. Likewise endorsements were made upon the
Certificates & minutes of our friends Joshua Sharpless
Caleb Cresson, William Rotwell, William Mitchell
Richard Mott & Jesse Cleveland certifying that their
company & exemplary conduct has been acceptable to us.

Epistles to our Brethren at their next Yearly Meetings
of London Philadelphia & Westbury on Long Island,
were prepared, & on being approved were directed to
be transcribed & forwarded.

Likewise an Epistle to our Quarterly Meetings was hea-
ard approved & the clerk is directed to forward it together
with Transcripts of the Epistles now received & the
necessary extracts from these minutes to our several
Quarterly Meetings.

This Meeting having had the company of our beloved
friends. Mary Ridgway & Jane Watson, their labours in
the Ministry & Discipline have been to our comfort and
edification & as we expect they are about entering upon
a visit to the Meetings herein belonging, we refer the granting
Certificates for them to our next yearly Meeting.

An endorsement was entered upon the Certificate of our friend
Sarah Lyndey certifying that her company & services have

been truly acceptable to us, & as her concern extends to our friends in Nova Scotia recommending her to their affectionate notice. Also upon the minute of her companion Elizabeth Martin, expressing that her company & services have been acceptable to us. 1791

This Meeting being renewedly exercised on account of the continuation of the disgraceful commerce in our fellow-men, yet carried on from this Country, do again recommend to the Meeting for Sufferings that their faithful attention to this interesting subject, be on no occasion neglected, agreeable to our concern last year.

This Meeting having been again favoured to meet at this place, & in a good degree to experience the overshadowing of divine Love during our several sittings, & thereby we have been enabled to transact the weighty affairs of the Church in brotherly harmony & condescension, under a grateful sense whereof we conclude & adjourn to the usual time next year, then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit.

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting

by Wm Rotch Junr Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England, 6 mo. 1791.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends

Being favoured to meet together again in this our Annual Assembly to transact the concerns relative to our Religious Society in these parts; our minds have been refreshed & strengthened, in measurably experiencing that the same Divine hand & Power, which not only gathered us to be a people, but hath preserved a remnant through all ages to speak his praise, is still near to help those who place their dependance on him, under the influence of which we have been enabled to conduct the affairs of the Church in

condescension & concord, and affectionately salute you.

We observe with great satisfaction your care and concern for us, exemplifyed in your acceptable Epistle of last year, which was read in this meeting to our comfort & edification. Indeed it is cause of thankfulness that neither the Revolutions in Kingdoms or States, or other occurrences, too frequently productive of dissension and animosity amongst men, obtain upon the minds of those who are converted to the doctrines of the Prince of Peace, but that wherever they are scattered, or however diversifyed their situations may be, they ardently desire each others welfare, & establishment in the unchangeable, & ever blessed Truth.

By accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings we have the comfortable intelligence, that Love & unity are generally preserved amongst us, & notwithstanding the great defection of some from the purity of our holy profession, there are a number still engaged through Divine assistance to keep their places in Righteousness, & that good order may be maintained in the Churches & divers have been added to our Society by conviniement since last year.

The situation of the poor distressed Africans, who continue to be the unhappy subjects of a barbarous commerce, prosecuted by cruel & avaricious men, still continue to engage our deep felt sympathy & concern, and through the continued help of the Father of Mercies in raising up & increasing advocates for the cause of Humanity, we have a comfortable hope that the suppression of that unrighteous Commerce will in his own time be effected.

We have had the company & and religious Labours of our beloved friends Mary Ridgway & Jane Watson from Ireland at this our Annual Solemnity, which have been truly comfortable & edifying to us. They appearing eminently preserved in & under the powerful baptising

influence of the holy anointing & heart searching power of Truth. — With the Salutation of brotherly love we remain your affectionate friends. —

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Signed on behalf of our said Meeting

Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to the Meeting this Year

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

We have with Gratitude to acknowledge the gracious extendings of Divine regard vouchsafed to us at this time whereby we have been enabled to conduct the weighty affairs which have come before us with a good degree of Harmony, brotherly Love & Concord.

We have also been favoured with the Company & Gospel Labours of our beloved Friends, Hannah Ridgway & Jane Watson from Ireland & divers other Friends from your parts, which hath been truly acceptable.

By accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings we find that although great weakness & deficiencies are sorrowfully apparent, yet there is a number preserved in each of our Meetings religiously concerned for the promotion of piety & Virtue, & for the right ordering & conducting the Affairs of the Church agreeable to our ancient Testimonies; by which we are comforted in a belief, that as we rely alone upon the everlasting help of his people, he will yet strengthen & enable us to perform the work & service which he hath for us to do, to his own glory & the Comfort & encouragement of his Church, & enlargment of its Borders.

An encreasing concern appears for the advancement of our Testimony with respect to the use of Spirituous Liquors, and we have the satisfaction to observe, that except for Medicine, & some instances of dealers in them, the practice hath considerably declined among us since last year, that there is encouragement to hope, that through continued labour, with divine assisting Grace the desired effect may be obtained.

We received your acceptable Epistle of last year, which was read in this meeting to our comfort & edification, & it is to the encouragement of many exercised minds among us to find the the Concern

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for the education of the rising youth threading among you to the effecting the promotion of schools on a right foundation, which we tenderly wish may be steadily persevered in till happily attained by you & us. tho' some difficulties yet retard its progress among us. we hope by a close attention to this important subject & patient continuance in our endeavours it may again be revived with desired success.

I have a fresh encouragement & comfort to us that a number of the dear young people among you appear to be engaged in the cause & promotion of Truth, may these among you & us with unreserved obedience & steady attention to the Divine will be preserved & strengthened for the good work that as the Testimony of Truth may tho' them be further advanced & they with us in the end be sharers of the Crown immortal.

As the progress made in many places for the Abolition of the slave Trade, we are encouraged to persevere in the support of our testimony against it, with renewed desires that none may be wanting in Concern, nor relaxing in exertion in the great cause of that much injured people, and tho' there are some who from avaricious views, diligently still persist in that iniquitous traffic, yet we trust & believe that the glorious work will in due time be effected to the praise of the great I. A. M. & comfort & joy of his people.

With the salutation of brotherly love we conclude & remain your affectionate friends &c.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting by

Mary Cook Junr. Clerk to the Meeting this Year

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends at Westbury on Long Island.

Dear Friends

In an humbling sense of the renewed extendings of Heavenly regard, at this time vouchsafed, in this our annual assembly, we have been favoured to transact the weighty business, which came before us, in a good degree of brotherly love & concord.

Your acceptable Epistle of this Year has been

received by us. the contents whereof have been refreshing to our minds, and we have been comforted in finding that there is thro' the continued influence of best wisdom, an exercised & concerned remnant, who are kept alive in the Churches with whom the living baptized members in this our solemn gathering, have felt themselves united in a near sympathy and travail; that they may be encouraged to stand fast in the faith, and that the careless & lukewarm by beholding their stedfastness may be prevailed upon to draw nigh unto him, who continues in mercy to invite them both immediately & instrumentally to come out of the paths of vanity, by listening at the reproofs instruction, which is the way of life.

1790

Our gratitude is afresh excited to the great author of all good, from your communication, & a feeling sense that the concern relative to the commerce in, & pernicious use of, distilled spirituous liquors among friends is increasing as well as, for the attention that hath been again manifested towards the commerce in & slavery of the African race, and we ardently desire that both we, & you, may be favored to keep under the tender impressions, that have mutually inclined our hearts to commiserate the suffering situation of that exposed people, by stedfastly endeavouring to cultivate a feeling mind susceptable of the touches of the divine finger, we hope & trust, if we are thereby guided into the varied paths of duty incumbent upon us, that the followers of Christ shall with joy of heart, one day know the total extinction of this abominable traffic, so disgraceful to the Christian name —

Let us therefore renew our courage & our confidence, nor suffer our well meant exertions to receive a check from the opposition of that may appear & arise against us from a combination of wicked or selfish men, knowing that he, that is for us is greater, is able, & will in his own time effect his gracious purposes in the earth —

In the fresh extendings of the Fathers Love, do we salute you and remain your friends & brethren.

Signed on behalf of our Yearly Meeting by

Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to the Meeting this Year —

The foregoing being the Epistle of 1790 was inserted by accident.

Conclusion of Epistle to Quarterly Meetings, having been begun by accident two pages forwards.

We have been sorrowfully affected with the information, that through inattention to our repeated advices, there hath of late been several instances of Friends Children being placed out to persons not in profession with us; We therefore engaged to renew in your remembrance the importance of an early care to impress upon the minds of your tender Offspring, the necessity of a diligent attention to that inspeaking Word of Truth, which is revealed in the Heart, even in the days of Youth, which would lead them in a blameless life of Piety & Virtue much to their comfort here & happiness hereafter. Now can this be expected when they are placed under the care of those, who are not attentive to this unerring principle which is the ground of our profession.

We tenderly caution & advise, Quarterly Meetings to take especial care in this respect, particularly to see that the children of the poor are accommodated not only with learning to fit them for business but also with Trades, or other suitable employments, whereby they may be in a capacity to contribute to their own necessities, & we further enjoin upon Monthly Meetings, a close inspection into the circumstances of that class of our brethren & sisters whose necessities in the course of events, ought to make them objects of our particular care, for which we recommend the appointment of a sufficient number of Overseers of the Poor both Men & Women to visit all those whose circumstances are doubtful, & to administer seasonable & Brotherly assistance, wherever it may appear necessary. And we earnestly recommend to all those who in the course of Providence are helped with a plenty of the Comforts of Life, to consider the Stewardship committed to their Charge & cheerfully to administer benevolently to those in want, that so our Christian duty may be discharged & this honourable practice continue to increase in reputation & our Society.

And Dear Friends, in order that decency & purity may be preserved among all ranks of our Society, we tenderly advise all you, that are Parents & heads of Families to have a special care over your Children & those under your care, in regard to Company Keeping: by no means suffering young men & young women to accompany together by way of Courtship

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without being well assured of their serious intentions in regard to marriage, nor without your consent, & that when a young man manifested such serious intentions, & obtained the necessary consent in order to company keeping, you fail not to exercise that rightful Authority with which Truth will ever cloath the truly watchful, careful parent & Gaardian, & which as you dwell rightly in, we trust will enable you intirely to disallow & prevent such young persons from accompanying together after you are retired to your beds; see to it we beseech you brethren & sisters, it is a trust that belongs to you, and for the faithful discharge whereof, you must be accountable. Let the youth have proper time & opportunity & rather by days than by night, for the necessary conversation upon the weighty & honourable subject of Marriage, but never give way to, allow or suffer them in the indecent & dangerous practice of setting up together after the heads of the family are gone to Bed, much less to go to bed together themselves; which to our great sorrow we have grounds to believe some of the dear youth of our Society have fallen into the Shameful practice of. And Oh! that none of the baneful consequences of such practices may ever be justly chargable to the neglect of parents & heads of families which yet we have cause to fear in regard to some past instances is too much the case. And in order as fully as may be to prevent all such undue liberties, and the dreadful ejfects resulting therefrom it is the sense & advice of this Meeting that if any member among us is found guilty of the sin of fornication, the Monthly Meeting for Discipline is manifest their disapprobation & abhorrance of such conduct, by testifying to the world that such person is no longer a member of our Religious Society, that nothing amongst us can be thought more inconsistent.

And it is further advised that where a new partnership, unity of families subsists & clandestine meetings of young persons in either of the forementioned disputable ways, the Monthly Meeting proceed to deal with them as disorderly walkers, & if they desist not from such allowance, or connivance that they be testified against, as persons no longer belonging to our Religious Society.

And dear young people, we dearly intreat it of you for your own souls sakes & for the reputation of truth ever steadily to guard against & refrain from all such dangerous & unbecoming practices. Signed on behalf of said Meeting by

Wm Rotch Junr Clerk &c

Meeting this year

1791

To the next yearly Meeting of Friends on Long Island.

Dear Friends

We have gratefully to acknowledge the renewed extention of Divine regard toward us in this our Annual Assembly, under the influence whereof the honest hearted have been afresh engaged in brotherly love, for the promotion of the cause & Testimony of Truth. the affairs of the Church have been conducted in brotherly love & condescension. We received your acceptable Epistle of the 5th mo. last from which we are encouraged both by your expression of near unity with the livingly engaged among us, and concern for our spiritual travail, a remnant we hope are indeed concerned to get down into suffering with the seed, being well aware that unless we suffer with the seed, nither shall we reighn with it. This we ought ever to bear in mind, that to be meek & low of heart is the alone way, to the qualification that enables to help & bear the infirmities of the weak. And oh, that the high minded & superficial, may while the Day of merciful visitation is lengthened out come down, whereby according to your brotherly concern for us, we may be individually engaged in the repair of the breaches made in the Walls of our Sion. each one concerned in a particular manner, to build first over against his own house, then shall we indeed be enabled in humble confidence to look up for the fulfilment of the prophesies upon us, cited by you, "for we shall "go out with joy, & be led forth with peace.

With the salutation of brotherly love we conclude & remain your affectionate friends.

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting by

William Roth Jun. Clerk to the Meeting this year

To our several Quarterly Meetings.

Beloved Friends

In a degree of our heavenly Father's love do we at this time affectionately salute you, and inform that we have received from the several Quarters, accounts & answers to the Queries. the solid reading of which in this our large Assembly hath administered comfort & satisfaction in the hope that there is a remnant in each monthly Meeting who are preserved in some measure in a travail for the prosperity of Truth & the increase

of Righteousness, notwithstanding the many sorrowful deficiencies 1791
exhibited by the answers to the Queries. Much hath from time
to time, & particularly last year, been sent from this Meeting
touching the almost settled deficiencies of its branches, but what
can precepts or ardent desires for a renewal of heart, effect,
without there is a closing in in earnest with that divine
principle of Light & Life, which we hold all sufficient to prosper
us & bless our, and secure Satisfaction to us therein, if but obeyed
to with a devotion of mind that we see at times, through infinite
mercy & goodness favoured to see is our incumbent duty; & having
been in the course of this Meeting renewedly impressed with a belief
that a frequent inward retirement of mind would greatly con-
tribute toward a reformation among us, we are concerned
to recommend to Parents & Heads of Families an attentive observ-
ance of the many communications upon this subject, & in a
particular manner the subject of the third Query, the latter part
of which, we have great cause to fear has fallen almost into
neglect among the Families of our religious Society. Desiring
that your dear Friends; as you regard the welfare of your own
& your Children, & the great cause of Truth, to endeavour to revive
the practice of convening your Families & centering in humility
& abasement of mind before the Lord of Nations, a practice
inculcated by most of the writings of our pious predecessors, &
which we have no doubt was abundantly promotive of
their being the shining Examples of their day & age. We intreat
& to impress & in order that those seasons of retirement may be
rendered as extensively useful as may be, we enjoin it upon
Families deficient in Books adapted to the promotion of piety
& Virtue among them which may at times be usefully read
in those seasons, to provide such as are most conducive to these ends.
That a faithful inquiry & inspection take place in a Monthly Meet-
ings into the wants of their members herein, as well as of useful
School Books, & where the circumstances of Families are incom-
petent to a suitable supplies, that Monthly Meetings take proper
care to supply them therewith, & should it so happen that any Mon
Meeting where such Books are wanted, may not be able to
supply the want. We touch the expence of them being too sensibly
felt. They are desired to lay be the same before the Meeting for
Sufferings for their aid and assistance, to be furnished out of
this Meetings Stock.

Look back for pages 58 & 59. for conclusion of this Epistle.

1792

The Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England, began at Portsmouth the 2d & ad Newport the 8th of 6th mo. 1792 in the mornings for Worship & the afternoons of the 8th for Discipline.

Accounts being received from the several Quarterly Meetings, the Friends therein named for Representatives are

For Rhode Island, Benjamin Buffington, Samuel Gorton 3d Isaac Hicks John Golden, Chad Smith Elisha Davis Royal Southwick & Amos Collins.

Salem. John Sabin, Jeremiah Tucker, Ebenezer Winslow Daniel Newhall, Paul Rogers & Remington Hobby.

Sandwich, Abner Hatch, Joseph Tucker, Silvanus Macy, Prince Gifford, Peleg Mitchell, Jeremiah Austin and Mordica Ellis. who being called are all present except Amos Collins & Mordica Ellis.

Information was received that from Mordica Ellis that the reason of his absence was through indisposition of body.

The Representatives having proposed William Rotch Jun.r for Clerk & William Almy for Assistant. They are accordingly appointed to those services for the year ensuing.

By the accounts it appears that the several proportions of the Yearly Meeting Stock have been directed to be paid to our Treasurer.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in their Account informs that they have approved of the Public appearance in the Ministry of John Knowles, recommended by South Kingston Monthly Meeting, & that they have concurred with Uxbridge Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Jonnedit Arnold & with Smithfield Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Lydia Smith, to the place of Elders.

Sandwich Qr Quarterly Meeting in their Account informs that they have concurred with Nantucket Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Silvanus Macy to the place of an Elder.

Epistles from our Friends & Brethren at their Yearly Meetings of London & Philadelphia, together with the

General printed Epistle from the former were received & read to our edification. And Samuel Rodman Sylvester Wicks Henry Oliver Thomas Arnold, Thomas Rotch, Matthew Purrington Obadiah Smith Richard Maury John Wadsworth Paul Rogers & Thomas Howland are appointed to prepare essays of Epistles to the yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia & Westbury as also to our several Quarterly Meetings & to transcribe the Epistles now received for the several Quarterly Meetings also to prepare Certificates for our beloved Friends Mary Ridgway & Jane Watson.

The Queries were read with answers from the several Quarterly Meetings by which we are again sorrowfully affected with the many deficiencies still remaining in the different branches of our Society.

Thomas Hazard Junr Josiah Rogers & Samuel Thurston are appointed to settle our accounts with the Treasurer report the state thereof & also to consider what sum may be necessary to raise the ensuing year.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having in their account, recommended to our consideration whither an an alteration in the third Query may not be expedient made.

Whereupon we appoint John Saber, Thomas Robinson Thomas Hazard, Jethro Mitchell, Joseph Douglas Joshua Folsom, Jeremiah Austin Benjamin Buffington Jeremiah Hacker, Thomas Arnold, Isaac Lawton, Jacob Mott David Buffum & William Rotch Junr to take that matter under solid deliberation, as also the reference of last year relative to the place of holding this Meeting in future together with such other matters of the general concern of Society as may properly come before them & report from time to time as way may open during the sitting of this Meeting

Adjourned to the 4th hour tomorrow afternoon.

9th day met by adjournment

The matter referred from last year relative to the place of holding our yearly Meeting in future having been deliberated upon by our Committee, continued to this report, it is again referred for the consideration of our next Yearly Meeting.

1792 It is concluded that Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting for the ensuing year be held in the same manner as last year.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last year were read by which it appears they have given attention to the subjects that have necessarily come before them in a manner that meets the approbation of this Meeting.

Adjourned to the 10th hour on second day next the 11th instant.

11th day met by adjournment.

Our Friend George Churchman having attended at this time presented a Certificate from Nottingham monthly Meeting in Cecil County Maryland 28th of 4th mo last directed to the Quarterly Meetings of Long Island & Rhode Island expressing their unity with him as an Elder & with his concern to attend those meetings, & a certificate of concurrence from the Western Quarterly Meeting Chester County Pensylvania 1st of 5th month last, which were read to satisfaction.

It having been the judgment of the Meeting for sufferings that a reappointment of Friends to constitute that Meeting would be useful at this time; wherefore after solid deliberation we appoint Jeremiah Austin, Thomas Hazard & Henry Oliver John Casey, Isaac Lawton, Thomas Arnold, John Taber, Paul Greene, David Buffum, Job Scott, Jacob Mott, Jeremiah Austin jun.r, John Winsor, George Comstock, William Hiny, Paul Rogers, James Davis, Daniel Aldrich, Joseph Douglas, Benjamin Buffington, Ethro Mitchell, Isaac Collins, Remington Hobby, Elisha Harris, Silvester Wicks & Wm Rotch jun. to Constitute a Meeting for sufferings for the ensuing Year & to act in that Capacity agreeable to the former appointment & Constitution of that Meeting. And the several Quarterly Meetings are at liberty to appoint such other suitable Friends as they may think necessary as members of the Meeting for Sufferings, not exceeding six to Rhode Island & two to each of the others, & retain their names to our next yearly Meeting. as soon as may be to the Meeting for Sufferings

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment. 1792

Certificates were produced in behalf of our beloved friends Mary Ridgway & Jane Watson which being approved were signed in this & the womens Meeting & the Clerk is directed to have them transcribed & forward them.

Epistles to our beloved Brethren at the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia & Westbury on Long Island were read approved & signed by the Clerk.

Considering some inconveniencies & inequalities that have arisen in the support of some of the necessary Expences of Society, we think it be recommendable & orderly for such expences as are necessary to be borne by Society, of Friends who have the concurrence of the brethren to travel on Truths account beyond Sea or in foreign parts, be paid out of the Yearly Meeting Stock. And for the expences of those who travel on this Continent out of the limits of their own Quarterly Meeting, we recommend that each Quarterly Meeting whom such friends belong make provision therefor. And for the expences of those who travel within the Quarterly Meeting where they belong, we also recommend that the Monthly Meeting of which they are members make the necessary provision.

Nevertheless where any of the foregoing expences or others on similar occasions, from the largeness of the amount or from other particular circumstances may be thought proper in any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to become the expence of Society at Large, the account thereof may be laid before the Yearly Meetings Audit. Who may approve the same or any part thereof, as they may think proper, to be paid out of their Meetings treasury.

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer report they have so done & find balance in our favour £118.7.11 & 7/11 uncollected & propose £50. to be raised the ensuing Year, which sum being approved, the Quarterly Meetings are desired to forward their proportions thereof to our Treasurer as follows Viz. Rhode Island £21.7.7. Salem £10-8 Sandwich £18.12.5.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow.

12th day, met by adjournment.

An Epistle for the Quarterly Meetings was read approved & signed by the Clerk.

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The Clerk is directed to forward the necessary extracts and transcripts to the several Quarterly Meetings.

The Committee on general matters report, they have solidly considered the subject relative to an alteration of the third Query, & even unanimously of the judgment it will be best to refer it to next year, it is accordingly referred to the consideration of next yearly Meeting.

Caleb Greene is again appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

An endorsement was made upon the Certificate of our friend George Churchman expressing that his Company has been acceptable & his labours to satisfaction.

This Meeting having been renewedly favoured through the several sittings thereof with a degree of the heavenly Father's love, under the influence thereof we have been enabled to transact the affairs of the Church in a good degree of brotherly love & condescension, Under a thankful sense of which we conclude & adjourn to the Usual time of Meeting next year then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit Signed on behalf of our said Meeting

Wm Rotch Jun.r Clerk

To Mountmelick Monthly Meeting in Ireland

Dear Friends

Our beloved friend Mary Ridgway attended our last yearly Meeting & presented your Certificates of ~~xxxxxx~~ the 4th month 1789. with Certificates of Concurrence from the Quarterly Meeting for Leinster Province & half years Meeting in Dublin. Since that time she has visited most of the particular meetings belonging to this yearly Meeting in all which we believe she laboured in the ability afforded to the comfort & edification of the body, being evidently accompanied in her religious appearances with the Life-giving Presence of the Lord. And apprehending her relieved from the concern that extended to us, we feel a satisfaction in expressing our unity with her varied services. & that her Life conduct & conversation

have been becoming & examplary, corrisponding with the important trust which it hath pleased the great Master to assign her. With desires for her safe return with the peace that accompanies a faithful discharge of duty & the salutation of love unfeigned, we remain your affectionate friends brethren & Sisters. 1792

Signed in & on behalf of our said Meeting by

Wm Rotch Junr & Sarah Robenson } Clerks to the Mens & Womens Meetings this year

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To the Monthly Meeting of Edenderry Ireland.

Dear Friends

Our beloved friend Jane Watson attended our last yearly Meeting in company with our esteemed friend Mary Ridgeway, & presented your Certificate of the 4th month 1789 with Certificates of concurrance from the Quarterly Meeting for Leinster Province & half years Meeting of Dublin. Since that time she with our aforesaid friend hath visited most of the Meetings belonging to this yearly Meeting, & we believe her Gospel labours therein were to general satisfaction, being evidently accompanied in her religious appearances with the Life-giving presence of the Lord.

And apprehending the portion of her Religious duty among us to be fulfilled, we feel a satisfaction in expressing our unity therewith, & that her Life, conduct & conversation have been examplary.

With desires for her safe return, with the peace that accompanies, a faithful discharge of duty, & the the Salutation of Love unfeigned, we remain your affectionate friends brethren & sisters.

Signed in & on behalf of our said Meeting by

Wm Rotch Junr

Sarah Robenson } Clerks to the Mens & Womens Meetings this year.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends

Impressed with a sense of our heavenly Fathers Love, which hath been experienced in this our annual gathering, whereby we have been enabled to conduct the business that hath come before us in Brotherly Love & harmony, we affectionately salute you, and therein acknowledge the receipt of your Written & printed Epistles of last year, the reading of which hath administered consolation to us.

May your sympathetic remembrance, enliven the pure mind & animate endeavours to walk conformable to the dictates of the divine monitor. It being a favour from the most high, that we are yet continued as one family & concerned for the Welfare & well being of each other, which is manifested various ways to our humbling admiration.

We are comforted in your belief that the Testimony against the Slave trade continues to gain ground in your Land, and we doubt not, it will yield you equal satisfaction to be informed, that a concern for its abolition also increases in this Country & that many endeavours are used to effect this desirable object - That the subject is worthy of an unremitting perseverance we are abundantly convinced, & in measure persuaded that it will not be lost sight of till that oppressed Race are permitted to go free.

Accounts have been received by us from all our Quarterly Meetings, whereby we are made thankful notwithstanding a sorrowful declension in some instances from the purity of our holy profession, that Love & Unity are generally preserved among us. and also that there are those who travail in spirit for the repairing the waste places in Zion not only among the members of years, aged, but also among the Youth.

And as we are loudly called upon to walk in purity of Life we ardently desire the number of those may be increased, to which the forcible expression of example will in measure contribute.

With the salutation of Love we remain your friends & brethren

Signed by order & on behalf of our Meeting aforesaid. by Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to the Meeting this year

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To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends. We have been favoured once more to meet in this our Annual Assembly in order to offer upon our united worship to the author of all our mercies, and to transact the important concerns of the Church, in these parts, in which we have humbly to acknowledge the gracious condescension of our heavenly Father, in that he hath been pleased, measurably to afford us his divine presence, whereby we have been enabled to conduct the business before us in a good degree of harmony and brotherly Love.

Our Meeting has been as large as usual, and accounts have been Received from the various branches thereof, by which it appears notwithstanding the many deviations, that a lively concern for the prosperity of Truth & the cause of virtue & religion, is witnessed in our Meetings.

We received your acceptable Epistle of last year and it has been read to our Comfort, may this our yearly correspondence, be carefully kept alive in the truth, as we fully believe it will then prove successful of stirring up the pure mind in the Church, provoking one another to Love & good works.

We believe we may be informed that our Testimony in respect to spirituous Liquors is generally preserved, not only as to the improper use of them, but that a concern has spread & generally prevails to avoid dealing therein for gain.

It also appears by the minutes of our Meeting for Sufferings upon whom it was especially charged by this Meeting last year: that an engagement has been witnessed to rise up in labour against that great national wickedness the Slave Trade & great is our cause of thankfulness

to find that God is spreading a Testimony against this evil in the hearts of the people far & wide, whereby a solid hope is raised that it is his determination it shall be done away.

May the Youth the middle aged & those on the evening of life, bear in watchful remembrance, that time is flying on from one stage to the other in quick succession & that a faithful discharge of the trust and improvement of the Talent committed unto us is the only sure ground of hope for a comfortable conclusion.

With the salutation of Love we remain your friends & brethren.

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting.

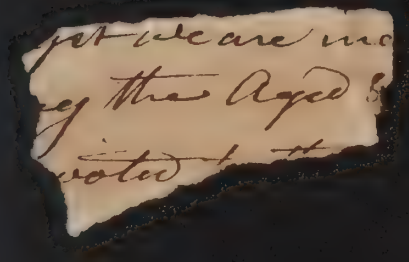
by [redacted] Roth Junr Clerk to the Meeting this year

To the Yearly Meeting at Westbury on Long Island.

Dear Friends

We have been through the continued extension of Divine regard, been permitted again to meet in this our annual assembly, & since good desire to experience the loving kindness of him who is the helper of his people, under the influence of which we have been favoured to conduct the business which has come before us to our satisfaction & comfort.

And altho' by accounts received it is sorrowful to observe that there are many deviations from that circumspection which ought to mark the footsteps of the professed followers of a Crucified Saviour, yet a secret hope remains that infinite Wisdom in the course of his Providence will yet effect a further reformation among us, and altho' his dispensations are wonderfully varied & sometimes painful & afflictive, yet we believe they will ever be found to be suitably adapted to the situation & circumstances of those who are rightly exercised under them. Therefore dear friends, let us submit to the operation of his hand, however exercising his dealings with



as may be, remembering that they are in mercy directed, 1792
& that the end intended by them is the Glory of his name,
the advancement of his cause on earth, & will finally
as we continue faithful terminate in our unspeakable
comfort & consolation. And as the present day calls
loudly for the united exertions of the living members of
the Body, let us be humble, watchful & diligent ever bearing
in mind that of our selves we can do nothing, but that
the preparation of the heart in man is of the Lord, it is
therefore highly necessary to experience the powerful op-
erations of the word of Life, to the subduing of our disor-
derly passions & propensities, and bringing them into subor-
dination to its self before we can be rightly qualified for
extensive religious usefulness, or reasonably expect to promote
the cause of Truth & Righteousness in the Earth

We have with sorrow to observe that the unrighteous
& unnatural Trafic in our fellow Creatures, is still continued
by some in these parts, notwithstanding the intervention
of the Legislature of this & some adjacent States, & the zealous
exertions of many respectable Citizens for the Abolition
thereof. And dear friends as this concern first prevailed
among us as a people, it highly concerns us to examine
our conduct, & see whether any part thereof has a tendancy
to promote this iniquitous commerce, or whether it is
such that we can say in deed & in truth we are bearing
a faithful Testimony against it, & that all our doings
are unconnected therewith.

In a degree of that Love which is the bond of
Religious Fellowship we affectionately salute you &
are your friends & Brethren.

Signed on behalf of our Meeting by

Wm. Rotch junr. Clerk to the
Meeting this year

To the Quarterly Meetings hereto Belonging

Beloved Friends

Under a renewed sense of our Heavenly
fathers Love, mercifully felt to extend towards us, at this
time, do we affectionately salute you, & hereby inform, that

1792.

We duly received your several communication with answers to the queries, in which we with sorrow observe, sundry deficiencies yet remain, & although much hath from time to time been communicated in this way, yet feeling our minds ardently engaged for your growth & establishment in the best things, cannot but recommend to your deliberate & serious consideration, what may be the primary cause of these deficiencies, as exhibited in many of your answers may it not be said, that the inattention to that Divine principle of light & life which led our holy predecessors out of the dead forms of an empty profession: & which excited them to assemble themselves together for the worship of God hath produced that submission & that disposition of some when assembled & conduced to the many deviations from that testimony that Truth exacts them to bear amongst men.

Oh Friends let not the trifling cares & amusements of this transitory World, divert your minds, from an attention to this great & important duty of assembling yourselves together, for the Worship of that being in whose hands our breath is, who alone is the giver of every good & perfect gift, who giveth & taketh away as he seeth meet, & who hath said "seek ye first the Kingdom of God, & its righteousness, & all these "things shall be added unto you. and dear friends, as you come to feel an engagement of heart, to this necessary duty, you will we trust witness a growth in that Love which is the characteristic of the followers of Christ who said hereby shall men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one towards another. It hath afforded comfortable satisfaction to our minds, in perceiving by your accounts that you have in many instances extended your Christian care for the preservation of your Testimony, may you not relax therein or be discouraged from the darkness of the prospect, for that we have abundant cause to believe, that the honest & faithful labours of friends hath & ever will be productive of happy effects.

We feel our minds impressed with a belief that Divine regard hath of late been experienced to extend to many among us, & more especially to the beloved youth, which excites our earnest desires for their preservation & establishment in the Truth, & may those of the four ranks among us be engaged so to walk that they may not become stumbling blocks, or give cause of offence to these little ones, but may be enabled to walk before them with that purity & holiness, whereby they may with propriety say to the dear youth, come follow us as we follow Christ.

Signed in & on behalf of said meeting by order

Joseph Gibbons Clerk this year

1793

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England, began at Portsmouth the 13th day of Newport the 14th & 6th mo. 1793, in the morning for Worship, & the afternoon of the 14th for Discipline.—

Accounts being received from our several Quarterly Meetings the friends therein named for Representatives are, for Rhode Island, Sampson Shearman, Sylvester Hicks, Jon.r Mowry, Amos Collins & Stephen Stead—

Salem, Paul Rogers, John Winslow, William Brece, Timothy Varney, Stebbins Hazard, George Ramsdell & Samuel Collins—

Sandwich, Joseph Wing, John Bailey, John Mosher, Joseph Tucker, Obed Mitchell, Peter Pollard, & Joseph Austin — who being called are all present—

By the accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings, it appears, they have forwarded to our Treasurer their several proportions of the Stock—

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in their Account informs that they have appointed Samuel Thurston Bennedict Arnold William Buffum James Smith Richard Mowry & Elisha Thurston Members of the Meeting for Sufferings—

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting in like manner informs they have appointed Joseph Wing & Thomas Hazard Junr. Members of the same Meeting— They also inform they have united with Vanhorn Monthly Meeting in their Recommendation of Elizabeth North as a Minister—

By an extract from the Minutes of Salem Quarterly Meeting we are informed that they have concurred with Dover Monthly Meeting in their dismission of James Neal from being a Member of the Select Meeting, & in their appointment of Paul Rogers to the place of an Elder also with Seabrook Monthly Meeting in their dismission of Jonathan Dow, from being a Member of the Select Meeting, & in their approving Abigail Folsom as a Minister. Likewise with Falmouth Monthly Meeting in their dismission of Elisha Pennington from being a Member of the Select Meeting—

An Epistle from our Brethren at their Yearly Meeting of London for last year directed to this Meeting together with

1763 with the general Epistle from the same Meeting were received & read to our comfort & Edification —

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having in their minutes proposed that their Meeting in the first Month which has heretofore been held at Providence should be in future held at Sommerset (formerly Swansey) after due consideration their proposal is acceded to, & the alteration is concluded upon accordingly, & the Clerk is directed to forward them a Copy of this minute —

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting having in their minutes proposed some alteration in the Place of Holding one of their Quarterly Meetings, whereupon we appoint, Thomas Arnold Jeremiah Hacker Isaac Lawton, Daniel & Anthony John Winslow Saul Rogers & Amos Collins Benedict Arnold & Sylvester Weeks, to take this Subject under consideration & report their Judgment thereupon at a future sitting of this Meeting, & Liberty is given for any Friend to attend with the Committee that may feel a concern therefor —

Adjourned to the 9th hour tomorrow Morning.

15th Met by adjournment —

The Representatives being called are all present.

The Representatives having proposed W. Rotch Junr to serve as Clerk & Samuel Rodman as Assistant, they are appointed to those services for the year ensuing —

Epistles from our Brethren, at their Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia for Last year, & that of Long Island for the last & present years, were read to our Comfort & Satisfaction —

The Queries were read with the Answers from the several Quarterly Meetings, whereby the State of Society hath been opened & solidly considered, & many pertinent Observations being made upon some of the prevailing deficiencies they are earnestly recommended to the weighty attention of the individuals present, and Remington Hobby Thomas Hazard Junr Samel Rodman Job Chalonor Benjamin Freeborn Obed Mitchell & Clark Rodman, are appointed to prepare Essays of Epistles to the Quarterly Meetings & return to a future sitting —

This Meeting feeling a renewed sympathy with & concern for the relief of our fellow Creatures in Africa who are still the subjects of a wicked & cruel Traffic & also feeling the necessity that so great a Stain, & Species of iniquity should be wiped from our land, are desirous of making an application

to the General Government with endeavours to promote the Abolition of the Slave Trade, do appoint, Elisha Thornton, Moses Brown, Thomas Arnold, Jeremiah Austin, Obed Wilkinson, Amos Collins, Jeremiah Tucker & William Rotch jun.r to consider the Subject & prepare an Essay of Memorial to be laid before next Meeting of Congress provided it should ripen sufficiently upon their minds & report to a future setting of this Meeting.—

Caleb Greene, Shubael Coffin, William Brown, Samuel Collins, Jacob Mott, James Smith, Thomas Arnold, David Buffum, Sylvanus Wicks & Thomas Rowland, are appointed to prepare Essays of Epistles to our Brethren at their Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia & New York, and have transcripts made of the Epistles now received from those Yearly Meetings for each Quarterly Meeting, also to prepare Certificates for our friends present from the other Yearly Meetings.—

The Subject referred from last year relative to the place of our holding our Yearly Meeting in future, being again brought before us, We appoint John Mitchell, John Baily, Stephen Hazard, Benjamin Worth, Joseph Philbrook, Moses Brown, Jeremiah Austin, William Brce, John Fry, Isaac Lawton, Joseph Collins, Joseph Ring, James Davis, Benning Hobby & William Rotch Jun.r to take that Subject under Solid deliberation, together with the matter also referred relative to an Alteration of the Third Query & make report of their judgments thereupon at a future Setting of this Meeting.

Daniel Arnold, Samuel Thurston, Ruffell Braily, Clark Rodman, Benedict Arnold, are appointed to audit our Accounts & Settle with the Treasurer & report the State of our Accounts with him also to propose a sum suitable to be raised for the ensuing year.—

This Meeting adjourns to the 10th hour on Second day Morng. 8th mo. 17th day But by adjournments—

The Representatives being called are all present—

The Committee appointed to consider of the Proposition from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting relative to the removal of one of their Meetings Report that after considering that Matter, they propose its being refered until next year, after Solid deliberation to appoint, Jno Collins, Jacob Mott, Peleg Arny, Benedict Arnold, Isaac Lawton, Moses Brown, Daniel Anthony, to visit that Quarterly Meeting, & such of the Monthly Meetings as may to them appear best, & in the ability which Truth may give, & report their judgment upon the propriety of their request, & the Clerk is directed to send them a Copy of this minute.—

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The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last year were read, whereby it appears, they have paid attention to the Subjects that have come before them, with which the approbation of this Meeting being expressed & the time for which the members who constituted it, were appointed being ended, they are continued with the addition of Moses Brown now appointed, to Constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing, agreable to the principles of said Meetings institution—

This Meeting adjourn to the 3d hour this afternoon—

Afternoon Met by adjournment—

Our Beloved friend Elias Hicks attended this Meeting & laid before us a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of Jerico on Long Island, dated 18th of 4mo last with the Concurrence of New York Quarterly Meeting, dated 25th of the same,—

Also our beloved friend Peter Yarnall, attended this Meeting & presented a Certificate from Horsham Monthly Meeting in the County of Montgomery in Pensylvania dated 3d of 5mo last—both expressing their unity with their Ministry & also with their Concern to visit friends in these parts—

Also our friend Adonijah Underhill attd this Meeting with a Copy of a Minute of the Monthly Meeting of Jerico on Long Island, dated 16th of 5mo last, expressing their unity with him as an Elder Case in his accompanying our friend Elias Hicks to this Meeting—

Also our friend James Mott attended this Meeting with the Copy of a Minute from Purchase Monthly Meeting, the 9th of the 5mo last, expressing their unity with him as an Elder & with his concern to accompany our friend Elias Hicks on his Religious visit to Friends in New England,—

Also our friend Stephen Mendenhall attended this Meeting with the Copy of a Minute from Concord Monthly Meeting Pensylvania 5th of present Month expressing their unity with him as a Member & with his concern to accompany our friend Sarah Talbot & Companion in their Religious visit to friends in New England—

Also our friend Jacob Isaacs attended this Meeting with a Minute of Concurrence from the Monthly Meeting of Jerico on Long Island, dated 16th of 5mo last—And the Company of those friends is acceptable to this Meeting—

Our Beloved friend Rebecca Jones attended this Meeting with a Certificate from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting for the Northern District 23d of 4mo last, together with our beloved friend Lydia Haskins her Companion, with Certificate from Burlington 6th of 5mo last fully expressing their unity with their Ministry & with

their Concern to Visit us —

Also our Beloved friend Sarah Talbot attended this — 1795
Meeting with a Certificate from Caneans Monthly Meeting
Pennsylvania, dated 7th 5mo last expressive of their Unity with
her Ministry & with her Concern to Visit us. —

5th Adjourned Met by adjournment —

The Matter referred last year relative to the place for
the future holding the Yearly Meeting having been considered by
our Committee, & they thinking the Subject is not yet ripe, It is
therefore referred untill our next Yearly Meeting, & in the
mean time it is recommended to friends individually to pay
attention to the Subject in Order that we may be enabled to
form a judgment thereupon. —

The Committee to consider the reference of last year relative
to the third Query, proposed an Alteration, and after Solid deliberation
it is concluded that the following be adopted for the third
Query — And the several Quarterly Meetings are directed to have
it inserted in our Books of Discipline & the Clerk is directed
to forward a Copy of this Minute to each of them. —

Query 3rd Are friends careful to bring up those under their
direction in plainness of Speech behaviour &c Apparel to
restrain them from reading pernicious Books & the corrupt
Conversation of the World? are they good examples herein themselves?
& Do all the Holy Scriptures frequently read audibly
in their families. —

The Committee to Audit our Accounts with the Treasurer make the following report, — Agreeable to our appointment have settled Accounts with Caleb Lyon Treasurer to
the Yearly Meeting, and find a Balance due to said Meeting
of £34. 11. 10½ and are of Opinion that it is expedient to raise
£100. for the year ensuing. — Which being approved the several
Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward their several proportions of £100. to our Treasurer, as follows — viz.
Rhode Island £ 10. 15. 2, Salem £20, Sandwich £ 3. 11. 10 —
and the Clerk is directed to forward to each Meeting a Copy of
this proportion agreeable to this Minute —

This Meeting adjourns to the tenth hour tomorrow Morning
18th day Met by adjournment —

The Representatives being called all present —

The Committee appointed to consider of an address to the
Congress of the United States presented an Essay which being

Read

1793 Read, with some alterations was approved & signed by the Clerk and Moses Brown, Samuel Rodman, David Buffum, Benedict Arnold, Thomas Robinson, Samuel Collins, Thomas Arnold, & William Robbs Junr are appointed to attend if way should open the next sitting of Congress, & present the same, endeavour in the ability Truth may afford to effect the desirable purpose of the address, & report at next Yearly Meeting.—

This Meeting adjourns to the 3d hour this Afternoon—

Afternoon Met by Adjournment—

Epistles & Epistles to our Brethren at the Yearly Meetings of Sandon, Philadelphia, & New York were presented by the Committee, & with some alterations approved & signed by the Clerk, who is directed to have them transcribed & forwarded to the respective Meetings.—

The Yearly Meeting of our Brethren on Long Island informs us in their Epistle that they have agreed to adjourn to the City of New York that in course it will open on Seventh day following the fourth next day in the fifth Month; that the Meeting of Ministers & Elders be on the preceding seventh day.—

An Epistle to our several Quarterly Meetings was also read approved & signed by the Clerk & is directed to be forwarded—

Our friend Ann Yeamans having attended this Meeting in Company with our friends Sarah Talbot, presented a Copy of a Minute of Wilmington Monthly Meeting dated 15th of 5th Month last expressing their unity with her as a Member in esteem among them & also in accompanying our said friend.— Caleb Greene is again appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year—

Endorsements were made upon the Certificates of our beloved friends Elias Hicks & Peter Yarnall expressing that their religious labours have been instructive & edifying and their Conduct & Conversation exemplary—

Likewise upon the Minutes of our friends James Mott, Obadiah Underhill, Jacob Seaman, & Stephen Mendenhall, expressing that their Company has been acceptable to us—

Also endorsements were made for the Certificates of our beloved friends Reuben James, Lydia Haskins & Sarah Talbot expressing that their Company & Religious Services were acceptable and edifying.— Likewise an endorsement for the Minute of our friend Ann Yeamans, expressing that her Company has been acceptable.—

This Meeting having experienced the renewed extendings of
divine regard this the several sittings thereof, have thereby been
enabled to transact the weighty Affairs that have come before
us, in much brotherly love & condescention, under a thankful
sense whereof, We conclude & adjourn to the usual time next
Year, then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit. —

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this Year

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held
in Philadelphia

Dear Friends. —

We have been favoured again to
meet together in this our Annual Assembly, and to wit-
ness a covering of divine Love to be mercifully spread over us,
under the Influence whereof we affectionately salute you, and
inform, that we have been enabled to transact the various
affairs which have come before us in love & condescention and to
our general Satisfaction & Comfort. —

The Work indeed appears to be weighty which is laid upon
these our Annual Assemblies, to Watch over the various parts of
the Body, in their particular capacities and seperate Progress; to
encourage the faithful, sincere to strengthen the Weak, to awaken
& rebuke the Lukewarm & Backsliding; to sympathize with the Sick
& distressed, and to administer to their restoration & comfort, as
shall be committed to us, by the great Physician will be our
attentive care & concern, as we are found faithful in the Trust
reposed in us. —

Your acceptable Epistle of the last has afforded us comfort,
and altho we may not have much to communicate, we earnest-
ly desire with you that our Correspondence may be kept up
and supported in that Savour of Life, which strengthens & invigo-
rates the Mind & enables to press forward in our Journey through
this Life of mingled Conflicts & Consolations towards the glorious
City of the Saints Solemnity, to a State of Joy unmixed & unalloyed —

This Meeting still continues to Travel under a concern
for the support and advancement of those several Testimonies

which

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1793

which have of late been particularly noticed in our mutual communications, & the Education of our Youth, & Spirituous Liquors & of the Slavery of the Africans; the last being of which being so deeply marked with National Injustice, as well as private wickedness & Oppression has seriously affected our Minds, under a sense of the Visitation of Divine Judgments so deeply experienced by those Nations, with which ours has been most connected, & with whom it has so long participated in the Spoils of the greatly injured. Against - may a careful & inquiring Care Place what yet remains to be required of us in that respect -

In near affection we again Salute you & remain your
Friends & Brethren -
Signed on behalf of our said Meeting
by William Robth Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this Year -

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in London

Dear Friends -

Being again thro' divine favour met in this our Annual Assembly, are enabled to Transact the affairs of the Church in Brotherly Love & Condescension, We affectionately Salute you, and acknowledge the receipt of your Worthy & Friendly Epistle of last year, the Salutary contents of which, manifesting a Sympathetic remembrance of us, have excited a renewed sense of gratitude to the Author of all Good for a Continuation of his manifold kindnesses -

By Accounts received from the several branches of this Meeting We are Comforted in the belief, that altho many deficiencies are obvious, there is a remnant graciously preserved whose care is extended for the renewal thereof, & the support of that Testimony, that rendered truly honourable our Predecessors, and will equally dignify all those of the present day who faithfully adhere to it with a Zeal proportioned to its important object -

It is truly satisfactory to us to be informed, that Success has so far attended the virtuous endeavours of those concerned for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in the English Nation that there is a reason to hope its Suppression will in the end be attained - And notwithstanding the endeavours of those who are united in the same benevolent cause in other Countries have not yet been crowned with the desired Success; this Meeting

hath been Exampled by a renewed Sympathy with Pioneers
for the relief of those who are Still the Subjects of that wicked
& cruel Traffic, to interpose on their behalf by an Address to
the General Government of the United States, being Solicitous
that we may not thro' inattention and a discontinuance
of efforts, be chargable with its abominations, —

Feeling our Minds impressed with a Sense of the Calamity that
has disturbed a great part of Europe: we cannot but express an
anxious solicitude for the preservation from the defilements of War,
of the whole family who make Profession of being led by the
dictates of the Prince of Peace, —. May that Arm that is mighty
to save be extended for their Support, in the various afflictive
dispensations; and remembering that the Judgments of the Lord
are Mixed with Mercy; May all endeavour to abide under the humbling
effects thereof, that whilst they are in the Land, the People
may learn Righteousness —

Altho' there are instances of revolt & turning back from
the following the Captain of our Salvation, yet we have cause
of encouragment in observing that the Lord is at work in
the Hearts of many, & same have joined us since last Year —

Signed on behalf of our Meeting aforesaid —
by William Rotch Junr Clerks
to the Meeting this Year —

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in New York

Dear Friends, —

Thro' the continued favour of our Heavenly
Father we have been permitted to meet again in this our Annual
Assembly, and therein Strengthed to attend to & transact the weighty
affairs which came before us, in a good degree of Brotherly Love &
Condescention — We have received your acceptable Epistle of last
year, and that of this, which have been read in our Meeting to
our Comfort & Satisfaction, tending to renew our desires to continue
our communications with you, believing that thro' the Influence
of divine help they may be to mutual Edification & Comfort, —

In attending to the State of things among us by the Reports
brought ~~in~~ up from our several Meetings, we are sorrow-
fully affected with the defficiencies which thereby appear; and

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1803 tho it may ~~appear~~ be said the ways of Zion Mourn, Yet there
is a comfortable Hope that a remnant is mercifully preserved who
are engaged in ~~building~~ the work of building up the waste places Through
looking for, and depending on, the Aid and Assistance of that
holy Arm of Power, which never fails his People, who has
they abide in, will enable them to promote his work of Redemp-
tion in the Earth, to his Praise and their own unspeakable
Joy — We unite with you in Sentiment that Friends holding
Offices in Civil Government has not only a tendency a ten-
dency to weaken their hands but lead them in the way
of temptation, firmly believing, that Israel safely now
as formerly, dwelleth much on their dwelling alone.

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this Year

To the President. Senate & House of Representatives
of United States —

From the Yearly Meeting of the People Called
Quakers in New England held at Rhode Island from the
13th of 6th month to the 18th of the same, 1803, inclusive —

Being through divine favour met in this our
Annual Assembly to inspect into the State of our own
religious Society, in its various Branches, and generally to pro-
mote, as we are enabled thro' divine Assistance, the cause
of Truth & Righteousness in the Earth; we have been favour-
ably to acknowledge the abundant condescension & mercy of the
Almighty Ruler of the Universe, towards the Inhabitants
of this Country, in that he hath been pleased so far hitherto
to preserve so great a part of them from the immediate Calam-
ities of War. Under a renewed Sense whereof ardent desires
have been raised in our minds to Him the Preserver of Men
that he would be pleased more extensively to cause his holy
influence to spread over the Minds of all those who are
placed as Rulers in our Land; that he would Endow them
with the Spirit of Wisdom & true Judgment, and engage

them to walk humbly before him, & uprightly before the People —

We are fully persuaded that there is no solid ground of hope for preservation from National Calamities without a Sincere Heartful Attention to National Justice, that whilst the Government of this Country, Oppress or Violate the undoubted Rights of others, or suffer them to be violated by its Citizens with impunity: there can be no just cause to expect, however anxious we may be therefor, that we shall be preserved from the evils which now over Spread those Countries with which we have been most connected, & with whom as it were with common Consent we have iniquitously Shared the Spoils of Africa, — Whilst the National Legislature suffer their Subjects, without restraint, to inflict the Misery & wretchedness consiquent upon the Slave Trade upon our unoffending fellowmen; & to Entail it upon their Posterity; We Sorrowfully apprehend that the Nation at large, & our Rulers in particular, participating in the Crime will draw down the divine displeasure, —

We are well acquainted that our Brethren & others in different parts of the Continent have Spread this National evil before Congress; but as we Apprehend this Cruel Trade notwithstanding the increase of light & information, & in opposition to the Moral Sense & Judgment of the People in this Country, through the allurements of Unrighteous gain upon Avaricious Minds, is rather increasing; We feel our Minds impressed with a Sense of Duty respectfully to renew the Consideration thereof before you; Earnestly desiring that the resolutions of Congress, declaring their Right to restrain the Citizens of their States from carrying on that Trade in the Channel it is now usually done; May not thro their inattention thereto rather prove a means of increasing, than Abolishing the evil, —

And therefore we earnestly solicit you to exert the Authority with which you are invested for the Suppression of that unrighteous Commerce, seeing that it is Righteousness which exalteth a Nation. —

Signed in & on behalf of our said Meeting

(by) William Roberts Junr Clerk

to the Meeting this Year

1794

At our Yearly Meeting of Freinds held at Rhode-Island for New England began at Portsmouth the 12th & at Newport the 13th & 6th month 1794 in the mornings for Worship & the afternoon of the 13th for Discipline, —

Names being received from the Quarterly Meetings, the friends therein named for Representatives are for

Rhode Island, John Easey, Thomas Hazard, Isaac Lawton, Moses Brown, Rufus Smith, Daniel Wall & Adonijah Upton —

Salem, Jeremiah Hacker, John Taber, Samuel Collins, Paul Rogers & John Winslow —

Sandwich, Caleb Greene, Joseph Tucker, Peleg Mitchell, Jeremiah Austin Junr, Silvni Gardner, Abner Potter & William & Anthony — who being called are all present —

The Representatives having proposed William Rotch Junr to serve as Clerk to the Meeting and Benjamin Trebow as Assistant for the ensuing year they are appointed to those services —

Our beloved friend John Simpson attended this Meeting and produced a Certificate of Concurrence from Nightstown Mo. Meeting dated 6th of 5th month last, expressing their unity with his ministry and concern to attend this Meeting. Also our esteemed friend Joshua Evans attended this Meeting & produced Certificates from Haddonfield Monthly Meeting dated 16th of 3mo last, & from Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting 25th of the same — expressing their unity with his Ministry & also with his concern to make a Religious Visit to friends in the Eastern States — Also our esteemed friend Henry Hull attended this Meeting & produced a Certificate from the Creek Monthly Meeting dated 18th of 4th month last, also one from Nine partners Quarterly Meeting dated the 7th of 5th month last expressing their unity with him as a Minister & with his concern to visit friends in these parts —

Also our friends Daniel Mifflin Companion to our friend John Simpson, attended with a minute of concurrence from Nathickel Monthly Meeting the 13th of 5th month last And Samuel Allen Companion to our friend Henry Hull attended with a minute of concurrence from the Creek Monthly Meeting the 18th of 4th month last — All which were read to our satisfaction, & the Company of these friends is acceptable to us —

Epistles from our brethren at the yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia & New York were rec'd & read to our edification — 1879

Our beloved esteemed friend Hannah Barnard attended this Meeting with a Copy of a Minute of the Monthly Meeting held at Cowmans Patent 22nd of 5th month last, expressing their unity with her ministry, & concurrence with her proposal of attending this Meeting & the Quarterly Meeting at Nantucket, which was read and her Company acceptable to us —

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in their account informs they have approved of the recommendation of Rhode Island Monthly Meeting of the Publick appearance in the ministry of Anna Greene daughter of Joseph Greene and Abigail Robinson —

Salem Quarterly Meeting informs in their account that they have united with Salsborough Monthly Meeting in their appointment of Stephen Hussey as an Elder —

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting in like manner informs they have united with Nantucket Monthly Meeting in their having approved the Public appearance in the Ministry of Dorcas Brown —

The several Quarterly Meetings informs they have forwarded their several proportions of the Stock forwarded to our Treasurer —

Salem Quarterly Meeting by a Copy of a Minute having proposed for our consideration the holding this Meeting one week later than usual, as the time that would be more convenient to friends of their Quarter, and also informing that they are unanimously agreed that a division of their Quarterly Meeting would be useful, whereupon we appoint, Thomas Arnold, William Buffum, Joseph Tucker, John Taber, Paul Rogers, Marmaduke Earl, Jazaniah Barret, Daniel Anthony, Jethro Mitchell, David Buffum, Augustus Lapham Daniel Aldrich, Joseph Collins, Nathan Hackney, Jeremiah Tucker, William Anthony, Joseph Harris, Smith Brown & William Robt Junr to take those subjects under consideration, together with the reference of last year relative to the place for the future holding our Yearly Meeting, and report their judgment thereupon to a future sitting of this Meeting; and also propose such other Matters of general concern as may to them appear necessary —

Thomas Hazard Junr, Jonas Collins, Samuel Collins, Ebenezer Winslow, John Haviland & Thomas Haviland, are appointed to audit our Account & Settle with the Treasurer and report the

1794 State of the Treasury, and also propose the sum they may think
necessary to be raised the year ensuing —

This Meeting adjourns to the 10th hour tomorrow morning

14th day Met by Adjournment

The Representatives being called are all Present —

The Queries were read with answers from the several Quarterly Meetings by which the State of Society was opened and Solidly considered and the following appears to be the Summary of the Reports Viz.

That all our Meetings for Worship on first day and those for Discipline are pretty well attended, but those on other days considerably neglected. That becoming behaviour is generally observed in Meetings except drowsiness which appears in some in most Meetings —

That Love and unity is in a good degree maintained, yet in the most extensive manner as becomes the followers of Christ it is much wanting. Talebearing. Backbiting &c mostly discouraged, and care is taken and differences where they appear —

That in each Meeting a concern prevails in some friends to educate their Children in plainness, & duly restrain them but that in others there is considerable neglect. That the Holy Scriptures are generally read in friends families —

That Monthly Meetings are generally careful to preserve our Testimony with respect to the unnecessary use of Spirituous Liquors, & friends appear guarded against unnecessary frequenting Taverns —

It appears that pretty general attention is paid to the poor, and also that there is an increasing care respecting ~~Marriage~~ the Orderly proceeding in Marriage —

Our Testimony appears pretty well maintained against War, except two or three instances noted under care in one Quarterly Meeting as also our Testimony against Slavery —

A care appears to subsist in all our Meetings to maintain our Discipline against offenders & to place judgment where it appears necessary, yet some delays have been suffered to take place —

Clark Rodman, David Williams, Daniel Brayton, John Bailey, James Smith, Elisha Thurston, Remington Hobby, Richard Mowry, Thomas Arnold, Caleb Greene of Bedford, Thomas Haviland, Obadiah Williams, Samuel Thurston, Obadiah Browne, John Pratt, & Paul Rogers, are appointed to prepare Essays of Epistles to the corresponding Yearly Meetings, and also to consider the Reports from the Quarterly Meetings and to prepare Epistles to them,

also Endorsments for the Certificates of our Brethren now present on Religious Visit also to prepare Transcripts of the Epistles for the Quarterly Meetings — 1794

By the report of part of the Committee appointed last year to Visit Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, it appears that some of them have attended that Meeting and have met a Committee of that Meeting and also one from Dartmouth Monthly Meeting and that it is their Judgment, that the Quarterly Meetings usually held in the Tenth Month at Nonaganset, be held at New-Bedford for One Year upon Tryal — which meeting the approbation of this Meeting it is accordingly concluded upon, the Women Meeting concurring therein, and the Clerk is directed to forward that Meeting a Copy of this Minute, which is again to be considered at our next Yearly Meeting —

This Meeting Adjourns to the 9th Hour on Second day Morning the 16th instant —

16th day Met by Adjournment —

The Representatives being called are all present —

Our Committee report that they have solidly deliberated upon the Proposal for altering the time of holding our Yearly Meeting One week later than usual, and are of Opinion that the further consideration thereof will be useful; it is accordingly referred to our next Yearly Meeting —

Part of the Committee appointed last year to present our Memorial to Congress made the following report — Viz: —

In consequence of our appointment by the last Yearly Meeting to present their memorial the Congress of the United States, We together with Samuel Rodman went to Philadelphia in the first month last, and arriving at the time of their Meeting for Sufferings, We attended that Meeting and laid before them the Subject of our mission, and received their Sympathy and attention, A Committee having been before appointed, to give us such assistance as might be necessary — And notwithstanding some discouragements appeared in the way, yet we Trust we were in some degree favoured with ability to Travail in that faith that is not dependant upon the wisdom of Man, And being accompanied by some friends of the said Committee we presented the Memorial to the President Vice President, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, by whom we were very respectfully received — And

on its being laid before the House of Representatives a Committee of five members was appointed to consider of the Memorial and Report thereon — We several times met with them and endeavoured to impress their minds with the Object and concern of the Yearly Meeting; with which they appeared to unite and discovered a favourable disposition towards Abolishing the Slave Trade as far as was within the limits of the Constitution — And after about two weeks, during which time similar applications were made from divers Societies for Abolishing the Trade) — They reported in favour of the application, which was referred by Congress to the next week for discussion, during the intermediate time, we were daily employed in visiting the members of both Houses and some other Officers of the General Government, with a view of impressing their minds with the importance of the Subject and of explaining to them the Object of the Memorial — And although in those individual opportunities we same times met with great opposition, Yet we were often with observing when the Subject came before the House, to decide upon that Spirit of opposition seemed evidently to be restrained by a Superior Power, and the Report of the Committee of Congress was unanimously accepted — And the same Committee was appointed to prepare and bring in a Bill Accordingly —

In this Stage of the business having Spent nearly five weeks in the City (during our minds retained, and being convinced that due attention would be paid to it, both by the Members of Congress and friends of Philadelphia, We returned home having during our Stay been much comforted and Strengthened in a belief that the work was the Lords and that his Assistance was graciously afforded therein, and were also much encouraged by the Sympathy and concern of our Brethren & Sisters in the City —

And we have now thankfully to inform that the Act herewith presented Prohibiting the Slave Trade has since been passed by Congress —

Newport 6mo. 5761

Moses Brown
David Buffum
Samuel Collins
Thomas Arnold
Wm. Rotch Junr.

which report meets our Acceptance, and we trust a degree of reverent thankfulness is experienced in considering that

it hath pleased infinite goodness, so far to bless our labours as thus to dispose the Legislature to attempt to mitigate the sufferings of the greatly oppressed Africans —

The Committee appointed to consider of the proposal of dividing Salem Quarterly Meeting report, that having solidly considered the proposition, they think such a division may be useful, which is accepted, and the Womens Meeting uniting therein it is concluded that said Meeting be divided according to their proposal, and that the division take place after their next Quarterly Meeting, that Salem Quarterly Meeting consists of the Monthly Meetings of Salem, Dover and Seabrook and be held on the fifth day before the second sixth day in the Ninth Month at Berwick, in the twelfth Month at Dover and third Month at Seabrook, and on the fifth day before the first Sixth day in the Sixth Month at Salem —

That Falmouth Quarterly Meeting consists of the Monthly Meetings of Falmouth, Vassalborough, and Durham; and be held on the fifth day before the first Sixth day in the Ninth Month at Vassalborough, in the Twelfth Month at Durham, in the Third Month at Windham and on the fifth day before the last Sixth day in the Fifth Month at Falmouth And we appoint Silvanus Mitchell, Jacob Mott, Rufus Smith Joseph Harris and William Rotch Junr to attend those Meetings at their first settings and assist them therein and give them such advice as truth may open the way and report to next Yearly Meeting —

Our Committee also report that they considered the reference from last year relative to the place for the future holding this Meeting, and are of opinion that this is the most suitable Place — which report is acceptable to this Meeting and concluded upon accordingly —

It is concluded that the following be adopted instead of the minute of 1791 — It is agreed that if any Friends shall Marry contrary to the good Order established among us, being previously cautioned by the Overseers, that the Monthly Meeting where such belong, named to make a Minute of denial and

1794

1794 testify against them, without further Labour when they think it best — And the Quarterly Meetings are directed to have the addition entered upon all our Books of Discipline —

This Meeting adjourns to the 4th hour this afternoon —

Afternoon Met by Adjournment

The Committee appointed to settle with Treasurer report that they find a balance in our favour of £59. 6. 8 and think it best that it be recommended to raise one hundred Pounds for the ensuing year, and the usual proportions being Rhode Island £42. 15. 2, Salem £20. Sandwich £37. 4. 10 — Those Meetings are requested to forward them to our Treasurer and an account to this Meeting —

Caleb Greene is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last year, were read, by which it appears that they have attended to the Subjects that have come before them in a manner that meets our approbation — And the present Members are again continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing Year conformable to the former appointment and Constitution of said Meeting and Elisha Thornton is appointed in addition to them —

Adjourned to the 8th Hour tomorrow morning —

5th day met by Adjournment —

Endorsements were made upon the Certificates of our beloved friends Joshua Evans, John Simpson, Henry Hull and Hannah Barnard, expressing that their Company and Religious Labours have been Acceptable and edifying —

Essays of Epistles to our Brethren at the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, and New York, as also one to our Quarterly Meetings were produced, and being approved and signed by the Clerk are directed to be transcribed and forwarded to those Meetings —

Also upon the Minutes of our friends Daniel Mifflin and Samuel Upton expressing that their Company has been Acceptable —

The Clerk is directed to send the necessary extracts from our Minutes to the Quarterly Meetings and make reports to next Yearly Meeting —

This Meeting having been favoured through the several Sittings hereof with a good degree of the Shedding abroad of our

Heavenly fathers love, we have thereby been enabled to transact
the affairs of the Church in a good degree of brotherly love and
harmony, under a thankful consideration whereof we conclude
and Adjourn to the usual time next year, then to meet ~~to~~
again at this place if the Lord permit —

Signed in and on behalf of our said Meeting
by Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to the
" —
Meeting this year —

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in London

Dear Friends

Your Epistles to us of the 5th Month last
year and the Printed general Epistle have been received and read
to our satisfaction and comfort — The evidences of the remembrance
of distant Brethren, when met in Solemn Assemblies will ever
remain to be precious to each other; so long as they are
favoured to Assemble and to sit under the Canopy of Divine Love
the Overshadowings whereof we humbly trust we have in a good
measure experienced at this time, through the Strengthning Influence
whereof we have been Enabled to transact the affairs of the Church,
during the several sittings of this Meeting, in Brotherly love and
Concord — We are sensible with you that without an attention to
the Spring of Divine Life all our Labours will be in vain, our Assemblies for Religious Worship will degenerate into empty formality
and our exertions to raise and support the Discipline of the Church
become like the building of Babel —

We have sent Copies of your Epistles to our several Quarterly
Meetings, and it is our earnest and fervent desire, that the recommendations therein contained, to the pure and Holy Root of all true
Religion may more and more become the concern and Engagement
of every Individual among us — And may We and you be Strengthened and encouraged in a faithful support and Maintainance of
those Religious Testimonies which we have been and are called to bear
and hold up to the Nations, particularly against the desolating Spirit

of War, the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes and of Slavery—
All the same may have hardned their Hearts in iniquity, and
being left to their wickedness became fit Instruments for the
Chastisement of each other, let none faint or be weary of well
doing— He who has his way in the whirlwind and the Storm,
can by his Overruling Power bring forth good out of Evil, and
change the purposes of Men as the water courses are turned—

We noted in Our Epistle of last year that a Concern
then attended the Meeting to Spread the case of the Oppressed
Africans, as affected by the Slave Trade, before the General Government
of this Country, and all the private Applications from various Quarters
had been before made, without fully effecting the desired purpose; Yet
being revived and moved by others at the same time, After a considerable
labour among the Members of both Houses of Congress, by friends
to whose care the Subject was committed and others; the Violence
of the Opposition cleared, and an Act passed the several branches
of the Legislature for Abolishing the Trade, with much clearness
and Unanimity—

In which Labour our Committee have had great
satisfaction, the Over-ruling of the Divine hand having evidently
appeared herein, to whom alone we desire to ascribe the Praise—

It appears by the Accounts brought up this year that Love
and unity generally prevails throughout our Society, and divers
have been added thereto by convincement.—

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr Clerks
to the Meeting this Year—

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in
Philadelphia for Pennsylvania —

Dear Friends

Through the gracious Extendings of divine
Regard, we have again been favoured to meet together in this Our
Annual Assembly, to transact the mighty affairs of the Church
which came before us; and which have been conducted in a good
degree of brotherly condescention and Harmony.—

Your acceptable Epistle of Ninth month last was

received and read in this . Meeting to Edification: the sensible among us being renewedly confirmed in the divinely consoling Evidence that the Father of all our Mercies hath been & will be with those under Affliction and Probation, who repose their Trust and Confidence in him, may a Sense hereof excite in us a diligent Attention to feel after the Precious Power and Influence of Truth so as to be enabled to come up in the Line of Religious Duty, and repair the waste Places of Zion. That a living Concern may remain for the Enlargment of her Borders, by the addition of many more to the number of the Faithful who may become instrumental in promoting the glorious Cause of Truth and Righteousness in the Earth—

By the Accounts now brought up from the Several . Meetings there appears some Afflictive Instances of Depution, respecting the Testimonies, which we are called to exhibit to the World, and it has become the Concern of this . Meeting, that Exertions may be made to remove those things: notwithstanding there is an Evidence that our Testimony respecting the use of Spirituous Liquors is gradually increasing, from which we are led to Hope that the time will come, when its use will be duly circumscribed among those professing our . Name, and that also it may have an Influence among the Sober of all Denominations of Christians to endeavour to suppress its baneful Effects among . Mankind in General—

And it is our . Ardent desire that Love and Unity which become the Followers of the Lamb may more and more increase among us, that we may be a People of one . Mind, Speaking the same Thing, especially in support of our Testimony respecting War, which has made such Ravages among our Fellow Men in Europe, Concerning which Testimony we have renewed Occasion to remind our Brethren—

The Subject of the Slave Trade and of Slavery in general appears animatingly to occupy our . Minds, and the United Legislature having so far manifested their Judicial abhorrence of the Trade, that we have reason to hope that together with the Increase of Light on the Subject will ere long put a final Period to the Existance of that Cruel Traffic, and we have to believe that if those whose Eyes have been opened to see, and Hearts warmed to feel, for the Oppressed . Africans, would

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faithfully persevere in (as Brethren) affording every Assistance in their Power, 'till Slavery will cease to exist, and universal freedom prevail in the Land—

And dear Friends—We have ardently felt for the beloved Youth, that they in a very particular manner, on whom the mighty affairs of the Church must shortly devolve, may not be forgetful of the late, and present dispensations, both in Our own and foreign Lands— but be increasingly awakened to a sensibility of the great need there is of knowing a right preparation of Heart, whereby to acknowledge the past favours of the Lord, and be enabled to endure him in the way of his coming, for he cometh and will come both in the way of his Mercy and Judgment— wherefore, may we all be so wise as to embrace him in the way of his loving kindness and tender Mercy—

Of Covenant they may have made in Seasons of deep Affliction

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting
by William Roth Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this Year—

To the Yearly Meeting for the State of New York and parts adjacent—

Dear Friends— We received your Epistles of the Fifth month last, which was read in this Meeting to good Comfort, and unite with you in desiring that Our Epistolary Correspondence may be kept up, under the influence of that "Wisdom which is profitable to direct" and thereby be mutually benefited, comforted and Edified by our communications to each other—

We sincerely sympathize with you on Account of the many deviations from Christian rectitude, our Exercises at this time having been similar to yours in this respect, and are frequently desirous that we with you may be made instrumental in the hand of Omnipotence to the removing the curse of the apparent declension to prevalent amongst us, and thereby experience an advancement in the way of Truth and Righteousness, and in Order to be qualified for such a manner

as undertaking it is of absolute necessity to attend to the instruction
of him who is the wonderfull Counsellor, from whom alone a
preparation of Heart is experienced for every essential service, &
by which we may be enabled to turn our Brethren from the
evil of their ways, and an humble dependance on this will incline
us to examine the tendency of our conduct, and an engagement of
Soul will be witnessed that we may be preserved from giving just occa-
sion of Offence to any, or of being accessary to those causes of complaint
by our example, and herein self abasement will be known, and a
restraint felt, from obstructing the advancement of the Precious
Testimony by putting forth a Hand to Steady the Ark, until fitted
thereto by the sanctifying operation of Truth in our own Hearts

. May indeed have been the warnings and admonitions
of the Father of Mercies both immediately and instrumently, and may
we so improve the dispensations of his Providence as to be profit-
ably instructed thereby, and that the necessity of being in readiness may
constantly be impressive on our minds, that so when the midnight
cry is sounded Behold the bridegroom cometh go ye forth to meet him, we
may be prepared for an admittance into the mansions of rest and
Peace — We have in this our Annual Assembly been favoured
with the extendings of divine regard, by the influence whereof we have
experienced a good degree of Harmony, and have been favoured to conduct
the weighty concerns of Society which have claimed our attention
to Satisfaction — With the Salutation of Love we conclude your
Friends and Brethren —

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr. Clerk
to the Meeting this Year —

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends
hereto belonging —

Dear Friends

With a degree of humble thankfulness we
acknowledge our being favoured to meet together again in this
our Solemn Assembly; and having received accounts from all
the Quarterly Meetings; we are afresh convinced that there is a
living exercised engaged number who are concerned, not only for the

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Preparation and confirmation of their own Hearts, in the way of Righteousness and Divine Acceptance; but also a good degree of engagement for the support of our wholesome Discipline, and the maintainance of good Order in our Society at Large. Nevertheless we are sorrowfully affected at the many defects that have appeared within the borders of our religious Community? — How is it Dear Friends, you who are in the neglect of the attendance of our Religious Meetings on week Days? do you experience that living circulating Spring of Life to abound? are you not sensible that you have robbed the Lord of his Tithe and Offering? Why are we become so remiss in a Testimony our worthy Predecessors suffered so much to maintain; let there be an Enquiry made each one for his own soul, to know how the account stands between him and his Creator, and if there be found a want of Love or Obedience to Him, let there be a doubling of our diligence until there be a possession obtained and then we have reason to believe there would be no lack of Love one to another which is so much noted to be wanting by the answers to the Queries by which also it appears that some have waxed so cold in their Love to God, as when met on this Solemn occasion for Divine Worship as to give way to a sleepy disposition, which is disgraceful in the Eyes of beholders, and offending to Omniscient Purity —

It is a time of Commotion among the Inhabitants of the Earth, many in this Country who being in the Spirit of War, have much of their conversation therein: We feel it impressed on our minds to exhort all Friends that they come out and be seperate from such a Spirit, endeavouring with all diligence, to center our minds to that principle of Light and Life, which breaths Peace on Earth, and good will unto Men; guarding against being anxious for the success of any contending party, thereby manifesting that the Kingdom of our Leader is not of this World but consisteth in Righteousness and Peace —

And it is also with concern that we find by the answers to fourth Query, that there are a few, who deal in, and a considerable number who use Spirituous Liquors, and some even to intoxication; Now we earnestly recommend that all who have the Special Oversight of the Flock, & other concerned Friends, do carefully keep on the Watch, and where there appears in any a defection from our Testimony in those respects that they be admonished & admonished, & if any should disregard the Labour & Care of their Friends so not to refrain, that they be reported to, & dealt with, by the Monthly Meeting, as disorderly walkers, according to our Discipline; That so offenders may be rightly restored again to Unity, & the Camp be kept Clean & Wholesome — Signed on behalf of our said Meeting by Wm Rotch jun. Clerk to the Meeting this Year —

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England began at Portsmouth by a Meeting for worship on the 11th and at Newport on the 12th of the 6th Month 1795. —

Accounts being received from our several Quarterly Meeting, the Representatives therein named are

For Rhode Island, Isaac Lawton, Sylvester Wicks, Elisha Thurston, Moses Brown and Moses Buffington —

Salem, Peter Howell Junr, Paul Rogers, Samuel Collins, Matthew Purington, Isaac Bassett and Daniel Bailey

Sandwich, Jeremiah Austin, Joshua Mitchell, William Rotch, Thomas Hazard Junr, John Bailey and Obadiah Davis —

Falmouth, Jeremiah Hatcher, John Winslow, John Taber, and Ebenezar Winslow —

Who being called are all present —

The Representatives having proposed William Rotch Junr to serve the Meeting as Clerk and Thomas Hazard Assistant, We concur therein & appoint them accordingly for the ensuing year

Epistles were received from our brethren at the Yearly Meeting of London, Philadelphia and New York, which were read to our comfort and edification —

Our beloved friend John Wigham from Great Britain having a religious Visit to friends and others in America attended this Meeting and presented Certificates of Unity with his Ministry and brotherly sympathy and concurrence with his present engagements, viz from the Monthly Meeting of Aberdeen in North Britain, dated 8th of the 4th Month 1795 from the half year Meeting for South Britain held at Edinburgh the 28th of the same, and from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London by adjournments from the 5th to the 29th of 5th Month 1795 which were read to our satisfaction and his company and services are very acceptable to us —

We are at this time favoured with the acceptable company of our beloved friends Joseph Claude from Cane Creek Monthly Meeting North Carolina, Samuel Smith from Philadelphia and Henry Hull from Creek Monthly Meeting New York Government now on a Religious Visits, who produced Certificates from their respective Meetings which were read to our satisfaction—

Our friend Paul Upton Companion to our friend Henry Hull also attended this Meeting with the approbation of the Creek Monthly Meeting—

Also our beloved friends Martha Routh, Deborah Darby, and Rebecca Young from Great Britain, attended this Meeting and produced the following Certificates Viz. in behalf of our friend Martha Routh from Hardshaw Monthly Meeting 8th of 11th month and Lancashire Quarterly Meeting 15th of the same 8th and from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London in the 5th Month 1795. In behalf of our friends Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young from the Monthly Meeting for Lincolnshire 20th of 3rd Month and the Yearly Meeting for Wales held at Carmarthen 25th of 4th month 1793 and from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London in the 5th month 1793— all expressing their Unity with their Ministry, their sympathy and concurrence with their present engagements of making a religious Visit to friends and others in America, all which were read to our satisfaction and their Company and Service are very acceptable to us—

Part of the Committee appointed last year in consequence of the division of Salem Quarterly Meeting made the following report - Viz.— Agreeable to our appointment at the last Yearly Meeting We attended the Quarterly Meetings of Falmouth and Salem in the twelfth month last, and endeavoured to render them such assistance as we found ourselves abilitated, and it is our apprehension that the division may prove useful to Society — Jacob Mott, Joseph Harris & William Rotch Junr—

It appears from the Accounts from the Quarterly Meetings that they have approved of the following appointments to the place of Elders— Viz. in Rhode Island, Anna Thornton, Rufus Smith, Elisha Harris, Sylvester Wicks, Alice Congdon, Elisha Bowen Junr, Elizabeth Hosier, Lucas Weaver and Sarah Steer,— in Salem, Judith Collins 2nd, John Gove, Jonas Low, and Miriam Gove, in Falmouth, Elisha Bowerman and Elizabeth Bowerman —

We appoint Benjamin Freeborn, William Almy

Ebenezer Winslow, Thomas Hazard Junr, and Matthew Sherman to audit Our Accounts and Settle with the Treasurer, and report the State of the Treasury and also what sum they think necessary to be raised for the ensuing year — 1795

The subject of the future holding of the Quarterly Meeting of Sandwich in the tenth month referr'd from last year, coming again before this Meeting and no discouragements appearing hereto, it is concluded that the same be held in future at New Bedford, and the Clerk is directed to forward a Copy of this minute to that Quarterly Meeting —

The Reference of last Year relative to the holding this Meeting a Week later than usual, coming again under consideration, We appoint Sylvester Hicks Jeremiah Austin, Jeremiah Wilkinson, Thomas Arnold, and John Taber, to take the subject under their deliberation and report their judgment to this Meeting —

This Meeting adjourns to the 8th hour to morrow morning.

13th Day met by Adjournment —

The Queries were read with answers from the several Quarterly Meetings and the State of Society being solidly considered many judicious remarks were made thereupon, tending to stir up the minds to more watchful attention to guard against the many prevailing deficiencies that appear amongst us —

Adjourned to the 3rd hour this afternoon —

afternoon met by adjournment —

Samuel Hussey, William Almy and William Rotch Junr are appointed to consider the reports from the Quarterly Meetings and prepare therefrom a Summary of the State of the Society and lay before the next sitting of this Meeting —

We appoint Samuel Rodman, William Buffum, Daniel Brayton, John Taber, Thomas Rotch, Sylvester Hicks, Caleb Greene, Joseph Harris, Chad Smith, Obadiah Davis, Thomas Arnold, Richard Mowry and Peter Manil Junr to prepare Epistles to the corresponding Yearly Meetings and solidly to consider the Epistles now received and if it is their judgment that any part or all of them may be usefully transmitted to our particular Meetings that they have them transcribed and laid before this Meeting, Also to prepare Certificates for our Brethren now present on a Religious Visit —

This Meeting is adjourned to the 10th hour on 7th day Morning —

15th Day met by Adjournment.

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The Committee appointed to collect a Summary of the State of Society from the Reports, prepared one, which with some alteration is approved, and is as follows,

1st. It appears that all our Meetings for Worship and Discipline have been duly attended by most Friends, except a few instances of some small Meetings in one Quarter occasioned by inclemency of Weather and some neglect in attending midweek Meetings in each Quarter, the hour generally observed, Friends not all preserved from Sleeping in either Meeting, Mostly clear of other unbecoming behaviour, in some of which Defections care is said to be taken by three of the Reports —

2nd " Love and Unity appear to be generally preserved, but not altogether in that extensive manner as becomes the followers of Christ, Talebearing backbiting and Spreading evil reports are Guarded against, and where differences have arisen care has been taken to end them —

3d " A care subsists in many Friends to educate those under their care in plainness who are good examples themselves, but others are deficient herein, as also in restraining them from reading pernicious Books and the corrupt conversation of the World — The Scriptures are generally read in Friends families.

4th " Mostly careful in the use of Spirituous Liquors, attending Taverns and Places of Public resort, and where there are exceptions there care is taken —

5th " The poor appear to be carefully attended to except in one Quarter, they are not so much assisted in business in some instances, as might be best, and in another in giving their Children Learning in some places —

6th " Friends appear mostly careful as to the orderly proceedings in marriage except some instances in each Meeting of keeping company with those not of our Society in which cases some care is said to be taken —

7th " It appears that our Testimony against Priests Wages and Military Matters is maintained and that Friends are careful not to be concerned in property taken in War or in defrauding the revenue —

8th " Friends appear mostly careful to inspect their affairs and to settle their accounts whilst in health, but many

are deficient in making Wills: Gifts and Legacies are duly applied —

9th " Our Testimony against Slavery is Maintained, and care is mostly taken to educate, and encourage in Virtue, those who have been hitherto therein, tho there are a few Instances wherein that care appears not to be sufficiently taken, as appears from the accounts from One Quarter —

10th " It appears that Friends are mostly careful to perform their promises and pay their just debts and where deficiences herein have appeared care is said to be taken —

11th " It appears that all our Marriages are duly recorded, some neglect as to other records — Certificates in cases of removal most attended to —

12th " Accounts appears to be preserved in all our Meetings for regular dealing with Offenders and to place judgment where it appears necessary, but in some Meetings delay has taken place —

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having approved the Testimony of Swanzey Monthly Meeting respecting our deceased Friend Patience Brayton, the same was read in this Meeting approved and is directed to be recorded —

The Committee appointed to audit our accounts and settle with the Treasurer, report they have so done and find a balance in his hands of fifty Eight Pounds four Shillings & Two pence and propose One hundred Pounds to be raised the ensuing year, which being approved, and the Representatives having apportioned the same, the Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to our Treasurer their following proportions Viz. Rhode Island Forty Pounds, Salem fourteen Pounds — Sandwich Forty Pounds and Falmouth Six Pounds —

Caleb Greene is again appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings were read in this Meeting, by which it appears they have given attention to the subjects that have come before them, in a manner which meets our approbation, and the same Friends are again continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing conformable to the former appointment and Constitution of said Meeting —

This Meeting adjourns to the 4th hour this afternoon —

Afternoon met by adjournment —

One of the Friends in behalf of the Committee appointed to consider of the reference of last year relative to the holding our

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Yearly Meeting in future, reports that having solidly considered the Subject it is their judgment that it is best that it be again continued for further consideration, it is accordingly referred to our next Yearly Meeting —

The Subject of education having been brought before this Meeting and our minds having been dipped into an exercise upon the importance thereof with earnest solicitude that a renewed concern may be excited in the minds of Friends to promote as far as in them lies the great object of a pious education of their tender offspring, do solidly recommend to our respective Quarterly and Monthly Meetings the weighty consideration thereof, and that they do encourage the formation of Schools under the Special care of Monthly Meetings conformable to former advices of this Meeting — And as we still believe usefulness would be derived to Society by the establishment of an Yearly Meeting School, and the present Fund appropriated therefor being inadequate for its continuation we feel desirous that a willingness may be excited in the hearts of those Friends who have a plenty of the things of this World, Liberally to spare thereof for so useful a purpose — and that Subscriptions therefor may be opened in each Meeting — Also that Quarterly Meetings procure the best information they can relative to the State of Schools and Education in general with an account of what obstructions they find to impede the accomplishment of this recommendation, and give this Meeting information thereof next Year —

Adjourned to the 9th hour tomorrow morning —

16th day met by adjournment —

The Company and religious Labours of our beloved Friends John Wigham, Martha Routh, Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young from Great Britain having been to our edification and encouragement; Certificates in behalf of the two former were prepared and signed in this Meeting and the two latter being about to make a general Visit within the limits of this Meeting, the preparing Certificates for them is referred to our next Meeting —

A Certificate was also prepared in behalf of our beloved friend Joseph Gould and endorsments for the Certificates of our beloved friends Samuel Smith and Henry Hull expressing that their Company and Services have been acceptable and edifying to us — which being approved were signed by the Clerk —

Also an endorsments upon the Certificate of our friend Saul Upton expressing that his Company has been aught able to us, and signed by the Clerk —

The Committee appointed upon the Epistles, produced & says for the Yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia and New York which being approved are directed to be transcribed and signed by the Clerk and by him to be forwarded to those respective Meetings — said Committee also prepared transcripts for our Quarterly Meetings of the London and New York Epistles and also of that from Philadelphia except a paragraph or two, which they thought safe to omit not considering them so immediately to respect those Meetings at at this time — the Meeting concurs therein and directs them forwarded accordingly —

The Womens Meeting having recommended to our consideration Whether it may not be as useful after reading the Queries, to omit answering some of them at each Quarterly Meeting except at those which precede the Yearly Meeting — it has claimed our solid consideration, and this Meeting being impressed with a belief that a revision of our present Queries will be useful, both Subjects are referred to the consideration of our next Yearly Meeting —

The Clerk is directed to forward the necessary extracts from our Minutes to the Quarterly Meetings —

This Meeting having been renewedly favoured with extending of divine regard we have been thereby enabled to transact the affairs of the Church that have come before us in brotherly love and condescension Under a thankful sense whereof we conclude and adjourn to the usual time next Year then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit —

Signed in and on behalf of our aforesaid Meeting by William Rotch Jun.r Clerk to the Meeting this Year —

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends

Under a renewed Sense of our heavenly fathers love, we at this time affectionately Salute you, acknowledging the receipt of your Epistles of last Year which were read to our satisfaction —

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This Meeting hath been as large as usual in which we have been favoured to transact the concerns that came before us in brotherly love and harmony; having a fresh experience that the Lord in merciful condescention hath been near, and willing to bless those who endeavour to yield obedience to his gracious manifestations —

Notwithstanding the backslidings of some, it hath afforded us particular satisfaction that others have been added to the Church since last year and to find a large number of the below Youth have attended this our Annual Assembly to many of whom we have no doubt the visitations of divine regard have been renewedly extended: Your affectionate salutation to this class of our Society and tender exhortation to them, not to be drawn aside from the manifestations of the pure principles we profess has been cordial to us, And we hope will be profitably impressed upon their minds, whereby they may be preserved from swerving from that rectitude, which can alone give comfort here in this mixed uncertain State of things, and afford a well grounded hope of happiness hereafter — Our solicitude for them beginning, and continuance in well doing, both in this land and yours is ardent; being sensible that the Aged, will ere long be removed, and the weighty services of the Church devolve on them, if with true devotion of heart, they will give up to follow the Lord in they way of his holy requirings —

We have received warrants from the several branches that constitute this Meeting, upon the Spreading of which before us, our minds have been exercised with deficiences that continue to exist; amidst which we have a satisfactory evidence, that there are many who endeavour to hold up truths standard by labouring to suppress the deviations, that mar the beauty of our profession —

Your affectionate mention of the decease of our late dearly beloved brother Job Scott exited a renewed sympathy in the loss, the Church hath thereby sustained, but we have consolation in the belief that the Lord will not suffer his heritage to be left destitute of Valients in his Cause —

The great portion of Peace and tranquility which our Country at present enjoys, is indeed cause for our reverent thankfulness, may we be engaged more and more to return the tribute of thanksgiving and praise to the Father of Mercies, Under this impression Your salutation hath been brought before us with

Brotherly Sympathy and desires raised that the followers of the Prince of Peace may amidst the Calamities of War, be strengthened as to witness his Banner over them to be Love, Wherein they may be enabled to stand faithful to Testimony given them to bear, and raise and exalt his Standard to the Nations —

It has been truly comfortable to us to have at this time the Company of our beloved friends John Wigham, Martha Routh, Deborah Darby and Rebecca Young from your Land, with other friends from our neighbouring Yearly Meetings, whose ministry and Services, with their Example & deportment has been strengthening and edifying —

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting by
William Rotch Junr Clerk to the
Meeting this Year —

To the next Yearly Meeting to be held in Philadelphia for Pennsylvania, New Jersey &c —

Dear Friends

Though the gracious Extendings of divine Regard, renewedly afforded to us in this our Annual Assembly, we have been favoured to transact the weighty affairs thereof in a good degree of brotherly Love and Concord —

Your acceptable Epistle of last year was read in this Meeting to our Satisfaction and encouragement to a steady perseverance in a line of Duty consistant with our holy Profession —

Among the number of the rising Youth who attended at this time, there appears in some good degree an engagement for the cause of Truth affords a hopeful prospect that we desire may not be frustrated; but that those among us and you may yet be favoured to follow on to know the Lord for themselves, and to witness him for their Guide and for their Buckler, and be enabled by a Continuance in well doing to succeed those in the Church, who have been removed from among us, and who were eminent in their day in the Service thereof —

By the Accounts now come up it appears a number of Deficiencies yet remain, may all those on whom the weighty Concern of Society devolves, seek more and more for a Qualification to labour successfully, that so those things may be removed, the Camp cleansed our brethren strengthened and animated to perform every Christian Duty, and Zion become the praise of the whole Earth —

We feelingly lament with you the continued ravages of War and the oppression of our fellow men in Slavery, may we carefully maintain our Testimony herein to the benign principle of the Gospel of Peace; and may our concern be kept alive in the Truth, with unremitted ardour for the relief and restoration of the Oppressed — With the Salutation of brotherly love we are your friends and brethren —

Signed on behalf of said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this year —

To the Yearly Meeting for New York

Dear Friends

We have renewedly to acknowledge in humble thankfulness the Condescention and merciful kindness of our heavenly father in favouring us with his life giving Presence in this our Annual Assembly, wherein we salute you in brotherly love, and in the fellowship of the Gospel. And wherein we have been enabled to transact the Affairs of the Church in Love and Condescention —

Notwithstanding we have had to lament many deficiences in maintaining the Testimony of Society, and some departure from the Standard of our religious Testimony, yet we are not herein left without encouragement, particularly as it respects the rising generation, many of whom we believe are under a precious visitation may they both among us and you be made sensible Individually that to keep their places and maintain their ranks in righteousness in time of backsliding or declension of others, is particularly well pleasing to the great Author and Captain of our Salvation — And that their remaining Stedfast in the faith, they shall not fail of being enabled in due time to journey forward towards the mark of the prize of their high calling in Christ —

Your acceptable Epistle of last month hath been read in this Meeting, wherein we observe with satisfaction, that the Education of the Youth has renewedly engaged your attention, with a prospect of still further encouragement therein — We look forward with a degree of hope towards the time when this important trust committed unto us, as it respects a guarded and pious Education of the Youth of our Society shall be more extensively and more faithfully discharged throughout our Yearly Meeting

We have had to rejoice in the Company of many faithful
Labourers in the Lords service from distant parts, being strengthened and encouraged together by his divine Presence to press forward
in the work of Salvation, and thus graciously made sensible that
the great Husbandman still careth for his Vineyard, may their
hearts be rightly disposed to make suitable returns of gratitude and
Love, and to continue to Labour with all diligence to bring forth
fruits acceptable unto him — We again Salute you in brotherly
affection and are your friends and brethren —

Signed on behalf of said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr Clerk to the
Meeting this year —

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held at Rhode Island
for New England from the 11th to the 16th of the 6th month 1795 inclusive

To the Monthly Meeting of Aberdeen, the half Years Meeting
of North Britain and the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders
in London —

Dear Friends

Our beloved friend John Higham having attended
this Meeting with your Certificates, and also all our Quarterly and a number of our Monthly Meetings, nearly all our particular Meetings
and many others appointed for those not of our Society as also visited
many Friends families: We hereby certify that Gods Wisdom and
Strength hath so accompanied his movements in his various
services that they have been to our Edification and Comfort;
and his conduct and conversation circumspect as becometh a Minister
of the Gospel, with fatherly sympathy, and desires that the Lords
presence may be still graciously vouchsafed for his support through
the various exercises he may yet have to pass and enable him to accomplish the further service whereunto he may be called to the comfort
of the Churches and his own Peace — We conclude your Friends
Brethren and Sisters —

Signed on behalf and by direction of our
said Meeting by William Rotch Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this Year
& Hannah Rotch Clerk to the
Womens Meeting

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From our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England from the 11th to the 16th of the 6th Mo. 1795 inclusive—

To the Monthly Meeting of Hardshaw, the Quarterly Meeting of Lancashire and the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders in London —

Dear Friends

Our beloved friend Martha Routh having attended our particular Meetings, divers others appointed for those not of our Society, also our Quarterly Meetings, Visited many families and attended the several Settings of this Meeting, produces our Certificates which have been read to our Satisfaction,

We hereby Certify on her behalf that her movements in the line of divine appointment the Ministry and various services in the Church have been so attended with Gods Wisdom and Strength that they have been Instructive and Edifying and comfortable to us. her life and Conversation exemplary, as becometh her Station in the Church: with near Sympathy and desires for her preservation in humble dependance on the Lord for Wisdom and Strength to support her through the various exercises she may yet have to pass and enable her to accomplish the work whereunto she may called to the edification and Comfort of the Churches and her own consolation and Peace —

We conclude your Friends Brethren and Sisters

Signed on behalf and by direction of our said Meeting By William Rotch jun. Clerk to the Meeting this Year —

Charity Rotch Clerk to the Women's Meeting —

A Testimony from Swansey Monthly Meeting in the County of Bristol, Concerning our friend Patience Brayton, Deceased —

This our esteemed friend Patience Brayton was born at South Kingstown within the Verge of South Kingstown Monthly Meeting. the 18th Day of the 11th Month in the Year 1733

of Parents professing Truth, David and Mary Freame, and as she early faine in herself a propensity to folly, dissipation, and vanity So she witnessed the repraver following, by powerful Convictions, tho for a time she withstood, and was reluctant in yielding up to the divine Monitor, which (by her own remarks) exposed her to many deep conflicts, and temptations, yet frequent, and powerful, were the operation of the Holy Spirit on her mind, whereby a willingness was wrought in her, to break off from her beloved Companions in vanity mirth, by yielding Obedience to the Divine will, altho she became a byword and derision, of those her unprofitable companions.

About the twenty-first Year of her Age she appeared in Public Testimony, in which she witness'd an advancement from one degree of faith and experience to another, In the Year 1758 she was married to Presented Grayton, of this Monthly Meeting, whereupon she commenced a Member also, in the attendance of which and Meetings for Worship, she was very diligent when ability of Body would admit, notwithstanding we believe she surmounted very many difficulties.

A remarkable gravity appeared in her deportment which indicated a reverent awe to cover her mind, especially in her approaching to perform divine worship in our Assemblies — And whilst she was under the Parental ties of an Affectionate Mother she was at times prevented from getting out, and at such times, as also at others, She manifested a necessity for Heavenly Bread by calling her family to retirement and Seclude —

About the middle part of her Life, She being one of those who were exercised on account of the Slavery of the Africans, was jointly concerned with her Husband, in setting those which they held at liberty, thus being desirous to cleanse her own hands from the iniquity of the times then prevalent, She became qualified to labour with her Brethren and Sisters, on the account of the liberties of others, which was in time thoroughly accomplished amongst us, thus endeavouring to be faithful in the little, She came to be called to a greater field of Labour —

A concern prevailed in her mind for some time to visit friends in the Southern Government, which she gave up to perform, and having the concurrence of Friends thereunto She set out the 9th Day of the 5th Month 1771 — Notwithstanding the exercise was great, and very many were her conflicts and travings — The Infant State of her family seeming to

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require her nursing attention, with the exercise of parting with a beloved worthy Husband, cast painful reflections in her mind, yet that Arm that was laid bare for her delivery from her early captivity, and sustained her hitherto, was pleased again to perfect Obedience to his requirings, and support her through many hardships and discouragements in the course of this Journey, (in her absence) one of her Children was taken away by Death and another soon after her return, in which trials she manifested resignation of mind, and acknowledged the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be his worthy Name — She having been from home upwards of one year in Truths Service —

After her return she visited friends families through this Monthly Meeting to the comfort of the living amongst us, and stiring up the lukewarm, and was instrumental in encouraging the weak, and diffident travellers to persevere on, her concern being much for the Unity of the body —

She continued about home for several years, attending this and the neighbouring Meetings, and ame in the said time, She pretty generally visited friends, in the Eastern Quarter of New England —

She having had a concern for a long time, to pay a religious visit to friends in Great Britain and Ireland in the year 1783 with the concurrence of her Brethren & Sisters, set forward for Philadelphia, taking Meetings in the way, from thence embarked, and was favoured to arrive safe in Ireland, after spending some time in visiting friends there, proceeded to England, where her concern mostly lay, and visited nearly all the Meetings of friends in Great Britain, and was favoured to return to her family & friends, in about four years, with satisfaction, in her own Bosom, and at her return from this and other visits produced Certificates of friends Unity and good satisfaction with her and services amongst them — After her return from Europe, being in the decline of Life was much about home, attending her own, and the adjacent Meetings, in the year 1793 She was seized with a fit of the Paralytick disorder, at intervals of which, She was concerned and assisted to meet with us at our Meeting House, tho much weakened in Body, yet fervent in Spirit, and appeared renewedly concerned for the poor, often administering to their relief. She was one that was diffident

of herself, and her performances, and oft had to acknowledge her own unworthiness, and as she laboured to be faithful 1795
her endeavours were abundantly blest, to herself, and we trust to many of those amongst whom her lot was cast, particularly the Sick an afflicted, with whom her mind was often Baptized in near Sympathy, and favour'd with a sense of their States, to whom through the precious influence of Truth, she was enabled to administer the Wine and Oil of the Kingdom to the refreshing and consolating of their Spirits — She was a loving Wife, tender Mother, and much beloved by her Neighbours and Acquaintance —

And having kept the word of his Patience, we trust she hath left Affections behind her, She was seized with a fit of the like kind as heretofore, and manifested a sensation of her approaching dissolution, with calmness and composure said, she was ready, and discovering her Daughter to weep, continued dont mourn for me my Child, for it will be well with me, and having been assisted to the door for air, she said to those about her carry and lay me on the Bed, that I may die in Peace, after which in a short time, she quietly departed this Life, the 30th day of the 7th Month 1794, and was decently buried the first of the Eighth Month, in Friends burial Ground at Somerset, after a large and Solemn Meeting of Friends and others —

We doubt not but she is one of that number, of whom it is said "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth, Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their Labours and their works do follow them —

Aged upwards of 60 years, and a Minister about 40 years

Signed in behalf of our monthly Meeting of Men & Women Friends held at Somerset for Swansey the 6th day of the 1mo Month 1795 —

by Daniel Brayton Clerk —
Mary Earl Clerk —

The foregoing Testimony respecting our Beloved Friend Patience Brayton Deceased was presented and in the Quarterly Meeting of Men and Women Friends held at East Greenwich the 10th day of the 11th Month 1795, approved and Signed in and by Order of said Meeting —

by George Gould Clerk
Lydia Wilbur Clerk

(c) At our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England beginning at Portsmouth on the 9th and at Newport on the 10th of the 6th month 1796 —

Accounts being received from all the Quarterly Meetings the Friends therein named for Representatives are for Rhode Island, Daniel Anthony, Joseph Collins, Elisha Harris, William Buffum, Silvester Wicks, Isaac Lawton, David Buffum, Jr. Abraham Barden Rathbun. Salem, Richard Dame, Samuel Collins, Paul Rogers, Henry Oliver, & Stephen Gove —
Sandwich, William Rotch, Jeremiah Austin, Joseph Wing, William Anthony, Peter Pillard & John Bailey. Falmouth, Jeremiah Hacker, John Taber, John Winslow & Remington Hobby —

Who are all present

The Representatives having proposed William Rotch Jun^r to serve as Clerk at this Meeting approving thereof, he is appointed accordingly for the ensuing Year —

Isaiah Hacker is appointed Assistant Clerk for this Year — Epistles were received from our brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia & New York which have been read to our Comfort & Edification —

And we appoint William Rotch, Thomas Arnold, Richard Mowry, Moses Brown, Richard Dame, William Brown, Daniel Haviland Jun^r, Daniel Anthony and Joseph Harris, to prepare Essays of Epistles for those Yearly Meetings and also make such Transcripts or Extracts from those Epistles or other advices that may appear useful for our Quarterly & Monthly Meetings —

The Reference of last Year relative to the proposal for altering the time of holding this Meeting in future, the Revision of our Queries together with the manner of answering them, coming again under Consideration We appoint John Taber, Elisha Thornton, Samuel Collins

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David Buffum, James Davis, Silvester Hicks, Hosea Brown, Paul Rogers, John Casey, Smith Brown, William Anthony, Remington Hobby, Jethro Mitchell Jeremiah Hacker, Peter Pollard, Jeremah Austin, Isaac Lawton and William Rotch to take those Subjects under their Solid deliberation together with such others that may come before them & general Concern to Satisfy, and report thereupon from time to time during the Setting of this Meeting —

Samuel Thurston, John Hadwen, Stephen Sawyer Thomas Hazard Junr, Henry Blair, Joseph Douglas are appointed to audit our Accounts & settle with the Treasurer report the State of the Treasury & also apportion a Sum they may think necessary to be raised the ensueing Year to the Quarterly Meetings —

Adjourned to the 8th hour tomorrow Morning —

11th day met by adjournment

Our beloved friend John Lloyd having attended this Meeting produced the Copy of a Minute from the Mo Meeting held in Gwynedd in the County of Montgomery in Pennsylvania dated 26th of 4th Month last, expressing their Unity with his Ministry & concern to attend this Meeting —

By Reports from the Quarterly Meetings it appears that Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting have approved of the Recommendation of Richard Mowry as a Minister by Uxbridge Monthly Meeting and also of the appointment of Deborah Greene by Greenwich Mo Meeting & Sarah Fowler by Rhode Island Mo Meeting to the place of Elders

Salem Quarterly Meeting have approved of the appointment in Dover Mo Meeting of Richard Dame & Eunice Varney to the place of Elders —

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting have approved of the appointment of Jonathan Hart by Dartmouth & Patience Austin by Nantucket Mo Meetings to the place of Elders —

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting have approved of the Recommendation of Micajah Dudley as a Minister & of the appointment of Stephen Jones, George Shilbrick & Silas Goddard

Goddard to the place of Elders by Durham & Mo. Meeting
& also of the appointment of Jacob Taber Junr & Anstress Hobby
as Elders by Vassalborough & Mo. Meeting —

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having approved the Testi-
mony given forth by Providence Monthly Meeting of the
Religious Progress, Gospel Labours and peaceful Close of
our beloved friend & brother Job Scott deceased, the same was
read in this Meeting to our Satisfaction together with the
Testimony concerning him from the National half Years
Meeting in Ireland — both of which are directed to be recorded,
And This Meeting under the fresh remembrance of his useful-
ness to the Church, and of the loss sustained by his removal,
are free to add, that such was the constancy of his example,
that he evidenced through the course of his deep Baptisms,
that neither heighths nor depths, Principalities nor Powers,
things present nor yet to come, were able to seperate him
from the love of God in Christ Jesus —

The Queries were Read with Answers from the several
Quarterly Meetings, which were solidly considered, and
divers judicious remarks made thereupon —

A Testimony from Sandwich Monthly Meeting
with the approbation of their Quarterly Meeting of the
Pious life, patience and peaceful Death of our antient
friend Ann Allen, was read to our satisfaction, and is
directed to be recorded —

This Meeting adjourns to the 10th hour on 2nd day morng
13th day met by adjournment —

By the Reports from the several Quarterly Meetings it
appears that attention hath been to our recommendation
last year, relative to a pious Education of our Children,
and as the concern has revived in our Quarterly and Monthly
Meetings and some progress has been made therein, We
hope that friends will be favoured to follow the paintings of
Truth on this important Subject, in which the present
generation are so deeply interested, & find we are again
feelingly concerned to recommend first in General to
Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to persevere in paying
particular attention to this Concern, and also in an especial
manner to Parents and those who have the care of
Children, that they suffer no consideration of any reason:

able expences, that their outward circumstances will
warrant, to retard or prevent this very necessary work
& that the several Quarterly Meetings are requested to send
an account to our next Meeting what further progress
they may have made —

The Committee appointed on the matters referred from last
Year with such other Matters as come before them report, that
having considered our present Queries they think best that no
alteration be made at this time — and also that the propo-
sal for holding this Meeting One week later be referd — It
is accordingly referd to the consideration of our next Yearly Meetg.

Said Committee having also reported on several other
Matters the following advices are founded thereupon —

It is recommended that in future the Monthly Meetings
be not required to send answers to the Quarterly Meetings except
to the first Second and twelfth Queries, only once in the year
at the Meeting next preceding the Yearly Meeting, when they
are to answer them all as heretofore — but that all the Queries
be read in the several Meetings Quarterly and Friends are
desired to stir one another up to a more diligent application
of the important duties by them enjoined to themselves
individually — That an increase of care may be witnessed
by this Alteration —

It is recommended that in all cases where a Monthly
Meeting find it necessary to build a new Meeting House;
they apply to Quarterly Meeting to which they belong for advice
thereon —

Nantucket Monthly Meeting for the Northern District
having given information that this the few Friends of Dart-
mouth in Massachusetts application hath been made to them
from several persons residing in the Eastern British Colo-
nies, to be received as Members of our Society; in which case
they desire advice — Which Subject having been weightily
before this Meeting, it is recommended to Sandwich
Quarterly Meeting to take especial care thereof, and in
such manner as they may find best, endeavour to gain
such further information relative to the matter as may be
necessary and also afford such advice and assistance as the
importance of the case may require —

The Committee to audit our accounts and settle with
the Treasurer report they have so done, and find a Balance
in

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1795

in our favour of £63.14.5 — And by their conclusion it is recommended that one hundred Pounds be raised for the Year ensuing in the following proportions — Viz: Rhode Island £40 — Salem £14 — Sandwich £10 & Falmouth £6 — And the Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward those sums accordingly — And Caleb Greene is again appointed Treasurer for the Year ensuing —

Epistles to our Brethren at the Yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia and New York, having been presented were read approved and signed by the Clerk who is directed to have them transcribed & forwarded to those respective Meetings —

Adjourned to the 3rd hour this afternoon —

Afternoon met by adjournment —

The Records of the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last Year being read, the attention that appears to have been paid to the business that has come before that Meeting meets our approbation — and two of the friends who compose that Meeting last Year being deceased Viz: Benjamin Buffum and Amos Collins — The remaining members are continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing Year Conformable to the former establishment and Constitution of that Meeting, and Moses Buffington, Samuel Collins, William Knowles, Daniel Haviland Jun and Benjamin Procter are appointed in addition thereto —

A Certificate in behalf of our beloved friends Deborah Darby & Rebecca Young was presented, read, approved & signed by the Clerk —

Our beloved friend Hannah Barnard having attended divers sittings of this Meeting presented a Minute of Concurrence from Hudson's Bay this Meeting —

Endorsements were made upon the Minutes of our friends John Lloyd & Hannah Barnard certifying that their Campaign & Services have been satisfactory —

The Clerk is directed to send the Quarterly Meetings Transcripts of the three Epistles received at this Meeting which have been prepared by our Committee as also such Copies from this Meetings Minutes as are necessary —

This Meeting having been favoured during the several sittings here with a good degree of the Heavenly Father's

tune; through the influence thereof we have been enabled to transact the busines that has came before us, in brother's love and Condescention, and feeling a degree of thankfulness therefor We Conclude and adjourn to the usual time next Year— then with Divine permission meet again at this place —

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Signed in & on behalf of our above said Meeting by William Rotch Junr Clerk

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From our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England from the 9th of the 6th Month 1790 to the 13th of the same inclusive. —

To the Yearly Meeting next to be held in London

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle of last Year has been duly received in this our Annual Assembly, wherein we have been comforted by the participation of that Love which is not circumscribed, but extends over Sea & Land; in which the remembrance of Brethren in the Truth is, and ever will remain to be precious —

It is truly a Source of great consolation, when the rising Youth afford an encouraging prospect of faithful succession in the Church, when The Ancients or others are called by the great Husbandman from the Labours of the Church Militant, to the glorious reward of the Church Triumphant; and the prospect you have mentioned of this kind has been grateful to us to hear — May the dear Youth of that description bathe with you and us remain steadfastly persevering in a faithful dedication of Heart to that work & Service whereunto they have been divinely called.

The Canopy of divine Love has been graciously vouchsafed to cover us in this Meeting, under which we have rejoiced together, and have been enabled to transact the affairs of the Church that have came before us, in brotherly Love and Concord, and notwithstanding we have

received

1790

recieved Accounts of considerable deficiencies in a Support of our Religious Testimonies, from various Quarters, Yet it has abounded to satisfaction to find they have been accompanied in most cases with Accounts of Labour & Travail for the restoration of good Order —

We cordially Unite with you in a desire to keep up our Correspondence in the Truth, and with the Salutation of Love in the fellowship of the Gospel remain your Friends and Brethren —

Signed on behalf of said Meeting
by William Rotch Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this Year —

Our Epistle of 1790 we suppose has miscarried, a Duplicate whereof having since been forwarded we expect will come to hand —

From our Yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 9th of the 6th month 1790 to the 13th of the same inclusive —

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in Philadelphia for Pennsylvania New Jersey, Delaware, and the Eastern parts of Maryland and Virginia. —

Dear Friends. —

Your Acceptable Epistle of last year, was received & read in this Meeting to our satisfaction, and under a renewed Sense that the Gracious Arm of Divine Strength is still mercifully exerted for the support of his depending Children wherever scattered, the minds of a Remnant have been humbled, Through the enlivening influence whereof, measurably extended to us in this our Annual Assembly, we have been enabled to transact the weighty Concerns of Society that have came before us, in Brotherly Love and Condescention. —

We note with heart felt satisfaction your attention to the Poor Indian Natives, on the account of whom we feel an earnest Solicitude that it may please

Him, whose penetrating Eye beholds the Workmanship of his Holy hand, sees their States & knows what they stand in need of, to bless and prosper this good Work in your hands. that so, those who may be afar off, may be brought near and acknowledge his might, by yielding obedience to the manifestation of Divine Grace in their hearts, to the praise of his all powerful Name. —

1790

Altho' great departure from antient purity, with many us, is sorrowfully evident, we entertain a comfortable hope, from the present prospect, that their are among rising Generation a concerned number who, with others more advanced, have been enabled to turn their faces Zionward, and who are desirous to prefer Jerusalem to their chiefest Joy — May such both with us and you, be encouraged to hold on their way, seek to be clothed with Strenght in their inner Man, whereby they may be enabled to withstand all the fiery darts and subtle insinuations of the Enemy, and become faithful Standard bearers for the Government of the Prince of Peace. —

The Subject of the Pious Education of our beloved Youth hath so far engaged the attention of our Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, as to afford a comfortable hope that a concern is spreading amongst us for the promotion of Schools, not only for their instruction in useful Literature, but that ability is afforded them may be brought up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord. —

With the Salutation of Love We remain
Your Affectionate friends and Brethren —
Signed on behalf and by direction of said
Meeting by Wm Rotch Junr Clerk
to the Meeting this Year —

From Our Yearly Meeting for New England held
in Rhode Island by adjournments from the 9th of the 6th mo
to the 13th of the same inclusive 1790. —

To the next Yearly Meeting for New York —

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1796

Dear Friends

Under a renewed sense of the Heavenly fathers Love graciously afforded us at this time, do we affectionately Salute you, believing that as we are engaged to wait for the direction of Gods Wisdom in our Epistolary communications, which aught to be the only Spring to our movements therein, that they will prove to our mutual encouragement and edification —

We have been at this time comforted in finding by your Epistles of last month, that their is reason to hope that your endeavours for a more faithful support of our Christian Testimony, is likely to prove in some degree successful, and We are also comforted in believing that in divers parts of our Yearly Meeting a renewed concern has taken place both for the promotion of our wholesome Order and also for the more Guarded education of our Youth. This latter subject has again claimed our serious consideration and still hope the concern is progressing among us, and that in due time feeling the advantages thereof, it may become more generally extensive. —

Great hath been the condescention of the Shepherd of Israel, in having of late time sent his Servants to labour among us and having qualified them to divide the word aright, many among the Youth and those more advanced we believe have known their minds renewedly quickened thereby and a comfortable hope is entertained that they may be given up to the Divine visitation and afford a succession of Testimony bearers to the praise of the great Husbandman.

With the Salutation of Love we are your friends and Brethren —

Signed on behalf and by direction of said Meeting by William Rotch Junr Clerk to the Meeting this Year

A Testimony from the National Half Years Meeting of Friends in Ireland concerning Job Scott late of Providence in Rhode Island State in America — 1796

It having pleased the Almighty to call, from works to rewards, this, our beloved friend, we feel our minds, engaged to give forth a Testimony concerning him —

From genuine marks evidenced in the course of his religious services, we believe him to have been an instrument fitted and prepared by the Great Master, through deep and repeated baptisms, for use and service in his Church militant: called and sent forth, by the immediate influences of his Spirit, to publish the Gospel, and being preserved in an eminent degree, carefully attentive to the leadings thereof, the word of the Lord, through him, was often "as a fire, and as a hammer, to break the rock to pieces" — Many were the bitter cups allotted him, in the dispensations of unerring Wisdom; which though hard to flesh and Blood, yet he appeared not to shrink therefrom; but in resignation to the Divine will, and a surrender of his own, he was concerned to follow the Captain of his Salvation, who was made perfect through sufferings; and thus, by abiding under the power of the Cross, he might well have adopted the language of the apostle "By the Grace of God I am what I am, and his Grace, which was bestowed on me, was not in vain, but I laboured abundantly, yet not I, but the Grace of God which was with me" —

He was a diligent waiter to experience renewed qualification for service, before he attempted to move either in the ministry or in the transaction of the discipline; as well knowing that without a fresh anointing, any endeavours to act must prove ineffectual, and tend to centre in lifeless formality, against which he was zealously concerned to bear testimony —

His conversation was coupled with fear as well as seasoned with grace; and being deep in heavenly mysteries, he was cautious of squandering the same, yet, when at liberty for conversation, his communications were agreeable, and

and remarkably instructive —

1796 He visited the Meetings of Friends in this nation, also had much religious service among those not in profession with us, and was a sharp threshing instrument, in the Lord's hand, against all who preached for hire, & divined for money, being earnestly concerned to call the people off from dead works, that they might be brought to experience the efficacy of true Religion in the newness of life.

In his last illness at the House of our friend Elizabeth Shackleton of Ballitore, he was much resigned, altho the disorder, which proved the Small-Pox, lay heavy on him. He spoke of the things of God, and those that appertain to his Kingdom, yet was very modest and diffident of his labours to promote them in the hearts of the People, but gave evident marks of his peace of mind and assurance that he had no doubt of a mansion of rest, prepared for him, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary be at rest, experiencing great serenity and composure, even as a morning without Clouds —

He departed this Life the 22nd of 11th Month 1793 aged upwards of 42 years, and has left an example which speaks loudly to us, his survivors, "follow me as I "have followed Christ" —

Signed in, by order and on behalf of our half years Meeting, for the Nation of Ireland, held in Dublin the 1st of the 5th Month 1794 by

James Fisher Clerk
to the Men's Meeting
by Anne Shannon Clerk
to the Women's Meeting —

A true Copy
Jonathan Hill Clerk
for the Records —

1797.

At our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England began at Portsmouth on the 8th and at Newport on the 9th of 6 Month 1797 —

Accounts being received from the several Quarterly Meetings the Representatives therein named are for Rhode Island, John Casey, Isaac Lawton, Daniel Anthony, John Foster, Jonathan Chase, & Georg Comstock, Salem Joseph Whitwick, Benjn Hutson, Stephen Sawyer, Paul Rogers, Samuel Collins, & Daniel Southwick — Sandwich, Joseph Wing, Smith Brown, Cornelius Howland, Zeb. Brayton, Peleg Mitchel Thos Rotch,) Gadiah Lewis .. Falmouth John Tabor, Jeremiah Tucker, Ebenezer Winslow and Samuel Porter .. .. all present except George Comstock whose absence appears to be from Infirmity of Body.

The Representatives having proposed Wm Rotch Junr for Clerk, & Thomas Rowland for Assistant. we approve thereof and they are appointed accordingly for the year ensuing ..

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs in their account, that they have approved of the appointments of Rachel Russell and Hannah Chase by the Monthly Meeting of Uxbridge & John Greene son of Thomas, Benj: Reynolds & Sarah Southwick by the Monthly Meeting of Greenwich to the place of Elders ..

And also the recommendations of the publick Appearance in the Ministry of Sarah Holder from Uxbridge Elizabeth Coggeshall from Rhode Island & Jonathan Chase from Swansey Monthly Meetings ..

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting in their Account informs that they have approved of the appointments of Paul Wing by Sandwich Monthly Meeting of Jeremiah Austin Junr by

1791 Recvd Monthly Meeting and ofs William Rotch & Jun.r by
New Bedford Monthly Meeting to the Place of Elders

The several Quarterly Meetings inform they have forwarded their respective proportions of the Yearly Meeting Stock to our Treasurer

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having forwarded Testimonies from Swansey Monthly Meeting of the Exemplary Lives, Gospel Labours & peaceful close of our Beloved Friends Benjamin Buffinton & Thos Hinds Shove, they were read and directed to be recorded.

Thomas Rotch Sylvester Riches, Ebenezer Winslow, Joseph Rogers Joseph Harris, & Joseph Philbrick, are appointed to audit the Treasurers Account, and Report the State thereof & also what sum may be necessary for the ensuing Year and proportion the same to the several Quarters. — —

The Matter referred from last Year relative to the holding of the Yearly Meeting later in the Month coming again before this Meeting after solid deliberation it appears that an alteration may be usefully made both as to the Yearly and some of the Quarterly Meetings whereupon we appoint Wm Rotch, Wm Anthony, John Tabor Wm Rufsum, Moses Brown, Isa. Smith, Stephen Sawyer Samuel Collins, Paul Rogers, Shubal Coffin & Jethro Mitchel to take the subject under their investigation, and report such periods therefor as may appear to them most useful —

We have been again favoured with the Company of our Beloved Friend Martha Routh now returned from a Visit thro' the Southern States, this Meeting has been also attended by our Beloved Friends, David Bacon Samuel Smith, & Nathan Allen Smith from Phila. Wm Mitchel from Nine Partners, who produced Certificates from their respective Meetings, whose Company & labours of Love have been very acceptable. We adjourn to the 8.th hour tomorrow morning.

8.th Day met by adjournment

The Queries were read with answers from each Quarterly Meeting, which opening the State of Society the prevailing defections have deeply exercised many a Mind and we hope the judicious observations made thereupon will tend to quicken the

Minds of Friends to more attention and labour in their 1791
respective Meetings to remove the causes of those Complaints

Dartmouth Quarterly Meeting having requested our consideration of that part of Discipline of 1763, relative to the mode of restoring persons who have removed from the Meetings where they were disowned, We appoint Thos Arnold, Wm Rotch, Peter Pollard, Jno. Saber, Richd Mowry, George Shove, Moses Brown Wm Bissume, Samuel Collins, David Buffum, Paul Rogers, John Casey & Wm Almy to confer with the Friends from that Quarter consider thereof & report their judgment at a future sitting of this Meeting —

Epistles were received from our Brethren at the yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia & New York which have been read to our Comfort & edification and we appoint Thomas Hazard Junr Joseph Davis, Daniel Brayton Obadiah Williams Geo. Arnold, Thos Rowland, Ethan Arnold, Wm Brown Obadiah Davis, Stephen Sawyer, Caleb Greene & Wm Rotch Junr to prepare Essays of Epistles to those Meetings also such advices & transcripts of Epistles now received as may appear necessary to send to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings

We adjourn to the 4th hour this afternoon

4th hour met by adjournment —

Our beloved Friend Charity Cook having attended this Meeting to our Comfort & Edification produced Certificates of Unity with her Ministry & concurrence with her present visit both to Friends in America & Europe from the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings held at Bush River South Carolina also from the yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders in North Carolina which were read acceptably & we feel a Brotherly sympathy with her in her present weighty & important engagements —

We are informed from the Meeting for Sufferings that divers Friends have suffered & some have been imprisoned by the operation of the present Militia Law of the State of Rhode

Island which having claimed our Weighty deliberations, the further consideration thereof is referred to a future sitting of this Meeting ——

Thomas Rotch, Smith Brown, & Clark Rodman are appointed to prepare endorsements on Certificates for our Friends who have attended this Meeting on their Religious Visits ——

This Meeting adjourns to the 10th Hour on second day Morning 12th Day met by adjournment ——

Our beloved Friend John Wigham having arrived yesterday from his visit to South Carolina, attended this Meeting & his Services have been very acceptable to us ——

Likewise his Companion Ebenezer Corson attended this Meeting with a Certificate from Chester Monthly Meeting Pennsylvania whose Company is acceptable ——

Our beloved Friend Lydia Hoskins having attended this Meeting wherein her Labours have been very acceptable, now produced a Certificate of Unity and Concurrence from Burlington Monthly Meeting ——

By Reports from the Quarterly Meetings it appears that our repeated advices relative to the important subject of Education has been attended to in each Meeting, And that in several Meetings the Object appears to gain ground & several Schools have been established under the care of the Monthly Meetings ——

It further appears that the principal Obstacles to the further progress of this desirable concern, are, the scattered situation of Friends in some parts of the Country, the difficulty of procuring suitable Teachers, together with a want of a proper concern in too many, — which subject having had the deliberate consideration of this Meeting; we feel renewedly encouraged to recommend to the Monthly Meetings who are not yet provided with necessary Schools not to relax their Exertions to accomplish that desirable Object — And that an account be again sent up next Year of the Progress therein ——

The Committee appointed to consider of the proposal from Falmouth Quarterly Meeting & proposed a Minute thereupon, to which having been read and considered, it is thought best to refer the Subject & the report thereon to our next Yearly Meeting —

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer Report they find a Balance in his hands of £57. 12. 8. due to this Meeting — And they apprehending it will be necessary to raise one Hundred Dollars for the ensuing year to approve thereof & the Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to the Treasurer their following proportions viz: — Rhode Island 16o. Sandwich 16o. Salem 4lb. Falmouth 9lb Caleb Greene is again appointed Treasurer for the year ensuing —

We adjourn to the 4th hour this afternoon —

Afternoon met by adjournment —

From the Report of the Committee It is concluded that the yearly Meeting begin with a Meeting for Ministers & Elders at Portsmouth on Rhode Island the Seventh Day after the second Sixth Day in the 6th Month at the ninth hour in the Morning, & the publick Meetings for Worship to begin on the first day following both at New Port & Portsmouth at the Tenth Hour in the Morning & at the 4th hour in the afternoon, the Meeting for Business to begin at New York at the Ninth Hour on second Day Morning following

That Salem Quarterly Meeting be held on 4th Day after the first Sixth Day in the Sixth Month at Salem —

That Falmouth Quarterly Meeting be held at Falmouth on the fifth day before the first Sixth Day in the Sixth Month, and the Select Meetings on the days before as usual

It concluded from the proposal of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that in future the Quarterly Meeting in the South Month be held at Sandwich & that in the Third Month at New-Bedford

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings were read, and their attention to the Business that has come before them meets

1797 our approbation We appoint Eglantine Wicks, Moses Brown John Taber, Daniel Anthony, Joseph Harris, Thomas Hazard Jr. Jeremiah Austin Jr., John Casey, Wm Almy, Job Chatterton, Asa Smith, Thomas Arnold, Thomas Wilbur, Samuel Thurston, Jos. Wing Smith Brown, Moses Buffington, Samuel Collins, Paul Sayer Wm Burgess, Elisha Mitchel, Peter Pollard, Joseph Philbrick Benj.ª Freeborn, Royal Southwick William Gifford, Josias Shove, Gav.ª Anthony William Knowles, Thomas Howland William Rotch Junr & Thomas Rotch a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing & to act in that Capacity agreeable to the former establishment & constitution of that Meeting

A Concern having spread in this Meeting on account of the afflicted & oppressed State of many of the Indian Natives in this part of the Country, and a desire excited to gain further information thereof, the Subject is referred to the consideration of our next Yearly Meeting & in the mean time the Meeting for Sufferings is requested to make what enquiry & gain what knowledge they can respecting the State of that People — and where they find Assistance is wanting that they promote subscriptions for their relief.

Adjourned half past to the 8th Hour to morrow Morning

13th day met by adjournment

The Matter referred from a former sitting of this Meeting relative to the Sufferings of some of our Members have been brought into by the operation of the Militia Law, in the State of Rhode Island, being again brought before us and deliberately considered, We refer the subject to the Meeting for Sufferings, enjoining their attention thereto & when way opens to apply to the General Assembly on our behalf for Relief.

Epistles to our Brethren at the Yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia & New York together with one to our Quarterly Meetings were read, approved & Signed by the Clerk

The Friends appointed produced Copys of Endorsement for

the Certificates of our Friends David Bacon, Samuel Smith
Nathan. Allen Smith & Wm. Mitchel expressing that their
Company & services have been acceptable to us - which are
directed to be endorsed & signed by the Clerke

The Clerk is directed to make out such Extracts from these
Minutes as are necessary & forward to the Quarterly Meetings
David Buffum, Wm. Rotch, Samuel Thurston, Richd. Mitchel
& Obadiah Williams are appointed to have the care of making
the necessary provision for the accommodation of Friends who
may be engaged to travel on Truths account from our Sea or
beyond the Limits of this Yearly Meeting

Thankfully feeling the continuation of Divine Love which
hath in some Measure attended us Through the several sittings
of this Meeting; wherein we have been enabled to transact
the Affairs of the Church in Brotherly Love & Harmony under
the influence thereof we conclude & adjourn to the time now
agreed upon, next Year to meet again at this place with
divine permission ——

Signed in and on behalf of this Meeting by

William Rotch Junr

Clerk to the Meeting this Year

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode
Island for New-England from the 8th. of the 6 Month
to the 13th. of the same Inclusive 1797.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends

We have again been favoured to
meet in this our annual Assembly, wherein the extendings

1797 & divine Regard have been mercifully vouchsafed to us, in our
we Salute you: & inform that your Epistles of last Year were
received and read in this Meeting to our Edification & Encouragement

The Account of the continued Imprisonment of three Friends
among you, for our Christian Testimony against Tithes, has
excited our Sympathy; it also affords satisfaction, that they
have been favoured to keep their safe abiding in the Stormy Season;
may all such be strengthened and established on the Immutable
Rock of Ages against which no Winds or Floods can prevail, whereby
every Branch of our Testimony raised & rising may be supported &
the Standard exalted to the Honour of the great Name—

By the Accounts now come up from the several Meetings it
appears that Love & Unity is maintained; and tho' some Instances
of defection are apparent to the Sorrow & mourning of the sincere
among us: it however affords consolating evidence that Truth
gains ground from a comfortable view of its spreading in divers
parts and in a Number that have been added to the Church this
Year by Convincement; and it is our ardent desire that such may
be faithful in that which is received whereby they may be made rulers
over more. ———

We lament that the Exertions which have been made in
favour of our injured & oppressed fellow Men of the African Race,
have not met the desired success which a comfortable hope is
afforded from your sympathetick Exhortation, that the feelings
will be cherished which have been excited towards them, and that
no favourable opportunity will be omitted to labour for their recovery;
it is also our earnest desire that no outward discouragements may
be permitted to deter either you or our Representatives to bear a faithful
Testimony on their behalf & spread their cause from time to time
before those who have the power of extending that Protection and
redress which Humanity & publick Justice so loudly call for
all that are have been favoured to escape in great Measure the
dreadful Calamities of War, which have divers Years prevailed
in Europe, to the great destruction & Misery of the Human

Race, yet we have been mindful of the Troubles to which you have been exposed, and fird desires for your mutual establishment & preservation on the sure foundation that we may be enabled to abide the Day of Trial under attention to our Testimony against War, & stand faithful to the cause of Truth which breathes Peace on Earth and good Will to Men.

We have at this time had the Company of our beloved Friends John Wigham & Martha Routh from your Land, whose Company & Gospel Labours have been edifying to us

Signed in and on behalf of our said Meeting

William Robson Junr. Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island from the 8th of the 6 Month to the 13th of the same Inclusive 1797.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in Philadelphia

Dear Friends

We duly received your acceptable Epistle of last Year which was read to satisfaction in this our Annual Assembly which at this time hath been large & through the extendings of Holy Help graciously afforded to us we have been enabled to transact the important affairs which came before us in a good degree of Brotherly Love and Concord, thankfully experiencing the Master's presence ....

Although in the communications received from the several Branches of this Meeting many deficiences still remain amongst us yet it appears a number are concerned for the Support of our Christian Testimonys & the advancement of the cause of Truth, amongst whom are a number of hopeful Youth may such every where humbly abide the Lords forming hand & not shrink under the operation of his Holy power but keep

their proper Ranks so that they may come forward in usefulness
in rebuilding the Ruin Places of Zion

We feel with you the necessity of our Minds being weightily
impressed with humble Gratitude to the Author of all Good for the
many favours and Blessings so abundantly extended to the Inhab-
itants of this Land may now settle down at ease & security in the
enjoyment of them, but rather let the consideration thereof awaken
us to a more strict attention to the pure Witness in our own
Minds which as it is kept to will more & more enlighten and
preserve from those pollutions which are we believe often the
causes of the Lords Judgments in the Earth

The Account of your concern & attention for the Welfare of the
Indian Natives, has afforded us Comfort & satisfaction with an
apprehension that, upon a careful examination, something will
be found due from us towards a Remnant of that people still
residing in different parts of this Yearly Meeting, and we have
recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to make Enquiry &
promote Subscriptions for their Relief where it shall appear necessary

Signed in and on behalf of our said Meeting

Wm Rotch Junr Clerk to
the Meeting this Year

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for
New England by Adjournments from the 8th of the 6th
Month to 13th of the same Inclusive

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at New York

Dear Friends

We have thankfully to acknowledge the
kindness of the Shepherd of Israel in again permitting us

to meet in this our Annual Assembly, and in enabling us to transact the weighty affairs of the Church in Brotherly Love and Harmony, Your affectionate Epistle was read, and it is cause of rejoicing to many Hearts, that infinite Goodness, has not only been pleased to preserve us in good degree of Love amongst ourselves, but also to continue to us the precious unity of the Heritage at large manifested by Epistolary communications of their Brotherly Care and concern for us, and it has been our renewed desire at this time, that this Concern may be continued amongst us, for our mutual help and encouragement, knowing that we cannot be the Disciples of the Holy JESUS, unless we have Love one for another, and it has been the engagement of the humble in heart at this time that the Holy Head of the Church may continue to be the helper of his People in all their Religious Movements for the promotion of his cause in the Earth, being fully persuaded in this Truth, that the Wisdom of this World is Foolishness with God, and that without waiting for his Assistance and being careful, only to act in his Counsel, we can do nothing towards the advancement of the cause of Righteousness

We are comforted in the information you have given us of your progress in the important Work of a guarded Religious Education of the Rising Generation, fully believing that the undertaking is from the pointings of Best Wisdom, and we have no doubt as that is followed, which is profitable to direct in every good Word & Work, you will find the Blessing of Heaven will attend your Exercises therein.

The importance of this desirable Subject has often been impressed on our Minds, and altho' little progress has yet been made, a Hope revives that he who has begun the Concern will in his own time as we are obedient to his Counsel

1797 carry it forward unto its final establishment, and prove a Blessing to our tender Offspring, and add Comfort to the Church ...

We have been engaged at this time for the Welfare of the remnants of the Tribes of the Indian Natives scattered thro' different parts of our Neighbourhood & believing a Burthen is due from us to that People; we have recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to make Enquiry & where it shall appear necessary, promote Subscriptions for their Relief,

Signed in and on behalf of our Yearly Meeting

William Rotch Junr. Clerk

to the Meeting this Year

At a Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Somerset for Swansey 2nd of the 1st Month 1797.

It appearing that the substance of the following Testimony was drawn up soon after the Death of the Deceased which of late being revived, brought forward and deliberately considered in this Meeting, and many Minds being accompanied with a lively remembrance of the Piety & virtuous Life of this our Beloved Friend, is an Inducement at this Day to preserve a Memorial thereof

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The Testimony of the Monthly Meeting of Friends at Swansey concerning our Esteemed Friend Benjamin Buffington Deceased

He was born at Lynn on the 9th of the 11th Month 1701
of Parents in Profession with us, by whom he was Religious-
ly Educated (his Father removing his Family within the verge
of our Monthly Meeting when he was young) he became a
Member thereof, where he lived the remainder of his Life
He was a Sober and Religious Youth, and of a sweet natural
disposition, very discreet and wise in his behaviour, even from
a Child and as he grew in Years, he grew in Grace; and in
the Fear of the Lord, whereby he gave just Hopes of being
a Serviceable Member in Society, accompanied with a modest
willingness to improve in the best manner, for the good of
himself and others, being often employed in difficult Cases, which
he managed with success, which caused him to be greatly beloved
by Friends and others — He was called to the work of the Min-
istry about the thirtieth Year of his Age, his first appearance
was small but well accepted, and for many Years did not stand
long at a time but being well attended with Life and Power, he
was a deep Traveller in Spirit, careful to Minister in the
Ability which the Lord only gives, the Seed taking Root down-
ward, he was in due time rightly Qualified to bring forth
Fruit upward greatly to the Comfort and Consolation of the
Heritage of God, and being largely gifted in the Openings of
Truths Doctrine, administered thereof to others, in the plain
and simple demonstration of the Gospel Power, to general
satisfaction, in which service he travelled twice Westward, as far
as North Carolina, visiting almost all the Meetings in those
Provinces where he had good service, amongst Friends & others,
besides many small Journeys, within the verge of our Yearly
Meeting, which were all to good satisfaction, leaving many
Seals behind him of his Labours —

His Life being adorned with a becoming gravity, his Words

few and Savoury, yet freein Conversation being well
1797 guarded — In short he was a bright and shining Light,
very serviceable in the Discipline of the Church, being a
Man of Peace, and pursuing it with his whole Heart, having
a good understanding sound in Judgment, with a Penetrating
Thought, which enabled him to see the subtil workings of
crooked and perverse Spirits, that were labouring to creep into
the Church, foreseeing the havock they would make, bore
a faithful Testimony against such thus like a Valiant in
Israel he did stand for the Lords cause —

May his Pious Life and virtuous Example, stir up many
others, to come up in his Footsteps to the honest discharge of
Duty —

His removal from time was sudden, being hurt at the
raising of a Building, after which he lived not an Hour, but
appeared to be sensible to the last, and departed in a resigned
Frame of Mind — on the 9th of the 4th Month 1760. Aged 59
Years A Minister about 29. and on the 11th of said Month
his Corps being accompanied with a large Body of Friends
and others to our Meeting House in Swanzey and after a
Solemn Meeting was decently Interred in Friend burying
Ground —

Signed in and on Behalf of said Meeting

By Daniel Brayton Clerk

Abigail Lawton Clerk

The within Testimony of the Life and Services of our
Beloved Friend Benjamin Buffinton presented at last Quarter,
was again read in our Quarterly Meeting held at East Greenwich
for Rhode Island the 13 & 14th of 4 Month 1797 to good satisfaction,
& is approved — Signed in & by Direction of said Meeting Geo. Arnold
Clerk
to 1797. Read in the Yearly Meeting and approved excepting one
Paragraph erased, and ordered to be recorded —

A Testimony from the Monthly Meeting of Friends held at Somerset for Swanzey 2nd of the 12th Mo 1797

Concerning our Friend Theophilus Shove deceased

As the Memory of the Just is pronounced Blessed, we think it our Duty to give forth a Testimony concerning this our Beloved Friend —

He was born at Dighton the 7th of 4th Month 1715 (of honest Parents, Edward & Lydia Shove) and early visited and convinced of the Truth, and bore a publick Testimony for it, before the Twenty first Year of his Age to the satisfaction of Friends — Yet through unwatchfulness to that convincing Power that had in a good degree Illuminated his understanding he was captivated and drawn into the Wilderness, by the Subtil Baits of the Enemy for a Season —

Nevertheless through the Lords Goodness and condescention he was mercifully revisited, and plucked as a Brand out of the Burning, whereby he was raised to sing on the Banks of deliverance of the Mercies and loving kindness of the Lord, then continued from time to time —

And after a Season of deep Exercise and humiliation, he was favoured with a renewed sensation of the Gospel again, and in & through a diligent attention to the dictates of Truth, he witnessed a Growth in this Gift, and in the improvement thereof, manifested as of the ability which God giveth, exciting others to keep up the Watch, and maintain the Guard, devoutly commemorating favours conferred and fervently imploring the continuation thereof —

He was diligent & examplary in the attendance of our Religious Meetings for Worship & Discipline, altho' laboured under great Infirmity of Body at times: and frequently attended adjacent ones, within the Compass of our Yearly Meeting And once visited the Churches through the Western

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Governments as far as North Carolina, having an concurrence in those Visits, and at his return produced satisfactory Certificates.—)

He was an affectionate Husband, a tender Parent (having great Influence on the Minds of his Offspring, by a steady circumspect Example of Self Denyal) a good Neighbour, & well beloved by his Acquaintance of every Rank & Denomination. his Life and Conversation being grave, yet innocently chearful which rendered his Company very agreeable.—)

He was a Lover & promoter of peace, Unity and Brotherly Love useful in our Meetings for Discipline, being sound in Judgment concerned that the Camp might be preserved & kept clean.—

Careful to visit the Sick and those in Affliction & had to administer of the Wine and Oil, to their Wounds & continued to be living & green to the end of his Days.—

And in his advanced Years had often to express that he was sensible, that his outward Man decayed, but the Inward Man grew Stronger & Stronger.—)

A few Weeks before his Death having a Shock of the Paralytick (which disorder for many Years before had so impaired his outward Man, that it was with difficulty he took his Food) said to some of the Family that he had a desire for some time, that he might not live to be burdensome in his old Age, and he believed his desire would now be answered.— soon after said he believed he should go like the Snuff of a Candle which for one is his Strength gradually failing to the last, and when asked how he did, his answer generally was, through the whole of his Sickness that he was easy in Body & Mind.—)

One day several Friends being present, he express in substance as follows.— that he had for a long time been labouring to be ready, for such a Day and Hour, that his

Sun might go down in its full Splendor & Brightness, & that the evening Curtain might be drawn in Calmness, that he might leave a good Savour behind him & the time being come brought no sorrow, & expressed how necessary it was for every one to make provision for such a day & time, and had to acknowledge the Goodness of God to him, in the abundance of favours he received.)

A little before his final close being asked how he did, answered, I am just passing away out of this Land, and I die in that unshaken faith I have believed in.

Thus having finished his Course with Joy, and in Unity with the faithful, like a Shock of Corn of fully Ripe 'I've doubt not,' he is gathered into the Garner of the Lord and made a partaker with the Righteous.

He quietly departed this Life on the 30th. of 3 Mo 1796, in the Eighty first Year of his Age, a Minister about Fifty years, and was decently Interred in Friends Burying Ground in Freetown the first of the fourth Month, after a Solemn Meeting of Friends and others. Signed in, and on behalf of said Meeting, by,

Daniel Brayton Clerk

Abigail Lawton Clerk

The within Testimony of the Life and Services of our Beloved Friend Theophilus Shove, presented at last Quarter, was again read in our Quarterly Meeting held at East Greenwich the 13th & 14th Days of the 1st Month 1797 to good satisfaction is approved. Signed in & by direction of said Meeting, by

Geo: Arnold Clerk

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To the Quarterly Meetings there to belonging.

Dear Friends

Feeling our Minds renewedly engag'd for the promotion of the cause of Righteousness in the several branches of our Religious Society, We affectionately Salute you desiring your close attention to the several precious Testimonies given us to bear by the Holy Head of the Church, the various declensions therefrom manifested by your answers to the Queries have painfully affected our Minds, and has been cause of mourning & heaviness of Heart, and Dear Friends you who are exercised in the management of the affairs of the Church, to turn your attention to the inspeaking word, Christ in you the hope of Glory, patiently waiting for his Instruction and deligently following the pointings of Truth in all your religious Exercises, whereby you will be enabled to Labour rightly for the restoration of Backsliden and those who are careless and inattentive to their Souls welfare — be not superficial in your movements but weighty in your Spirits both in Meeting & out of Meetings chearfully giving up your Services in fulfilling the Duties allotted you, careful in your own Examples and that of your Families, that others beholding your care and exercise may be encouraged to follow you wherein you follow Christ — and let not the love of this Love & the desire after Riches that are not durable have place in your Minds to the Weakning the Inward Man & obstructing your Growth & establishment in the Truth, seek to abide in humility that you may be made valiant in the Lord's hand to promote the cleansing the Camp, and preserving the Authority of our Discipline — more faithful Labour amongst the various delinquents is necessary, in much tenderness & Love and as you wait for the arisings of Holy Help therein you will be Instructed that your Labours will prove availing —

be ever watchful over those who give way to that re- 1797
proachful practice of sleeping in Meetings in freedom and
tenderness with them, persuading & encouraging them to
more faithful exertions to overcome so shameful a Practice
that by fasting & prayer their faith may be increased, and they
quickened to usefulness in the Church —

And as we have been comforted in a hopeful prospect
among the young & rising Generation in various parts of our
Yearly Meeting we earnestly intreat those who are the visited children
of the Lord that ye give not back nor be dismayed, altho you
may have none to look unto or lean upon but the Lord alone
trust in him who hath manifested his Love unto you, wait
upon him for his divine influence, who will assuredly arise for
your healing remembering that in the Lord Jehovah is everlast-
ing Strength —

And we further intreat all not to forsake assembling
yourselves together in our Religious Meetings as the manner of
some are, For what ground have we to expect divine preservation
in any allotment of Life if we suffer our Business or a careless
and lukewarm disposition to prevent attending to this important
Concern of presenting ourselves in order through Holy Help to
be enabled to perform acceptable Worship to that divine Being
whose due it is and our most reasonable Duty —

The Subject of making just Wills having been weightily
before this Meeting we are concerned to recommend the reading
of the Articles of Discipline upon this subject in each of our
Quarterly, Monthly & preparative Meetings and a faithful
attention thereto is recommended —

Signed in and on behalf of our said Meeting

William Robeh Junr Clerk

to the Meeting this Year —

At our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England, beginning for Worship at Newport and Portsmouth on the 10 of 6th Mo 1798, and at Newport the 11th at the 9th hour for Discipline

The accounts from all the quarterly Meetings excepting Sandwich, being presented, the representatives named are for Rhode Island, Isaac Lawton Benjamin Buffington, Rufus Smith, Daniel Aldrich, Moses Brown, John Casey, Wm Bagnell — For Salem, Daniel Gove, Henry Oliver, Paul Rogers, John Pratt, Mathew Purington & Esquires Shove — For Falmouth Jeremiah Hacker, John Taber, George Ramsdell & Wm Purinton Junr who being called are all present —

Our friend John Parish attended this Meeting with a Copy of a minute from the Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia, for the northern district Dated 5 Mo 1, 1798,

Also our friend Wm Jackson attended this Meeting with a Certificate from New Garden monthly Meeting Pennsylvania, dated 5th of 5 Mo 1798. —

Also our friend Silas Downing attended this Meeting with a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting at Westbury, long Island, dated 18 of 4 Mo 1798. —

Also our friend Daniel Haviland attended this Meeting with a Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of Oyster Bay dated 15 of 5 Mo 1798, all which were expressive of their being Ministers in good esteem and of the Unity of their respective Meetings with their concern to make a Visit to these parts —

Also our friend Tripp Mosher attended this Meeting with a Copy of a Minute from the Monthly Meeting at nine Partners certifying that he is an approved Elder ——

Also our friend John Philips attended this Meeting with a Copy of a Minute from the Monthly Meeting of New-Garden Pennsylvania, mentioning their approbation of his accompanying our friend Wm Jackson on his religious Visit —— which were read in this Meeting to Satisfaction ——

Epistles from our friends & brethren of the yearly Meetings of London & New-York, and the printed general Epistle from London, were read in this meeting to satisfaction ——

The reference from last yearly Meeting respecting the method of receiving disowned persons who have removed from the Monthly Meeting that had disowned them, being brought under consideration, but way not opening Satisfactorily to dispose of it the Subject is committed to the further consideration of, Daniel Anthony, Paul Rogers, Peter Pollard, John Tuber, Moses Brown, Jethro Mitchell, Jeremiah Tucker, Benjamin Slade Joseph Collins, David Buffum Sylvester Wickes, Isaac Lawton, Rufus Smith & William Rotch who are desired to make report to a future Sitting of this Meeting

The quarterly meeting of Rhode Island having proposed the discontinuance of the publick Meeting previous to the quarterly meeting in the 10 Mo at Smithfield, which having led to a consideration of the Subject at large, of holding Meetings of that description at those times, and on those occasions, and the same having spread & gained friends solid attention, is

is refered for further consideration to the Committee before appointed, and Remmington Hobby, Caleb Greene of Bedford, Ebenezer Winslow, Wm Gifford, Henry Oliver, John Pratt, Jeremiah Austin Junr & Wm Peckham are added to them.

This Meeting is adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, Met by Adjournment

The representatives being called, are all present.

The representatives having Nominated Wm Almy for Clerk and Benjamin Freeborn for Assistant Clerk for the year ensuing, which being approved, they are appointed accordingly.

This Meeting received an Epistle from our beloved friend Mary Mitchell, which was read to our Edification and comfort.

Rhode Island quarter in their account inform, that they have approved of the public appearance in the Ministry of John Easey of East-Greenwich, and Royal Southwick of Uxbridge Monthly Meetings; and of the appointment of Jonathan Mowry of Smithfield and William[illegible]kham of South Kingston Monthly Meetings to the place of Elders. And Salem Quarter have approved of the appointment of Rebecca Chase of Salem and Pelatiah Purinton & Keziah Purington of Wave Monthly Meetings also to the place of Elders

And

and Falem Quarter, that they have approved the
Jame appointment of Isaac Lincoln, Jorge Ramsdel, Eunice
Ramsdell of Falmouth Monthly Meeting, and that
they had Unity with Deborah Battey in the Ministry.

Thomas Rotch, John Reynolds, Daniel Howland Junr.
Caleb Buffum, John Howland, Thos. Arnold, Jezeniah Barrett
Daniel Aldrich, Wm. Anthony, John Chase & Samuel
Hussey, are appointed to audit the Treasurers Acct. &c. pro-
pose a Sum proper to be raised to supply the Treasury for
the year ensuing and Nominate a Treasurer.

They are also desired to take into consideration the
representation from Falmouth Quarter respecting their
being in want of several new Meeting-houses and
report what appears to them most eligible for this Meeting
to do in that Case, to a future sitting.

Peleg Mitchell, Wm Brown, Thomas Howland, Paul
Rogers, Mathew Purington, Job Chaloner, Caleb Greene
of Bedford, Ja Smith, David Williams, Thomas Rotch,
Obadiah Brown, Richard Mowry, Daniel Howland Jr.
are appointed to prepare Essays of Epistles to our Brethren
in London, New-York & Philadelphia.

Whereas the assistance of the Yearly-Meeting
is occasionally needed in defraying the expences
arising from Friends passing the Sea or elsewhere on
a religious account, agreably to the provision already
made by Discipline, Wm. Rotch, David Buffum,
Saml. Thurston, Richard Mitchell & Obadiah Williams
are appointed for the year ensuing to lend that assistance
on behalf of this Meeting, and present their Accounts
to the Meeting for Sufferings.

A Certificate on behalf of our Friend Mary Prior, who hath attended the sittings of this Meeting, from the Monthly Meeting of Hartford (England) dated 6th of 9 Mo 1797, certifying that she is an approved Minister, and their Unity with her in her visit to this Country, approved at the quarterly Meeting of Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire 18th of 9 Mo. 1797, accompanied with a Certificate from the second day's morning Meeting of Ministers & Elders, held in London 30th of 10 Mo. 1797, expressive also of their Unity with her as aforesaid, were read to Satisfaction.

Also a Copy of a Minute from the Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia in behalf of our friend Elizabeth Foulke dated 25 of 6 Mo. 1798, expressing their concurrence with her accompanying our aforesaid friend Mary Prior, and that her Ministry was acceptable among them.

This Meeting is adjourned to the third hour to Morrow afternoon

12th day, Met by Adjournment

The representatives being called are all present

The account from Sandwich being now presented; the representatives therein named are, Prince Wing, William Anthony, John Bailey Peter Pollard, Jethro Mitchell & Paul Wing, who being called answered respectively to their Names.

The Queries and Answers from the quarterly Meetings were read.— The deficiencies which were apparent in many instances, excited the

the attention of the meeting, and many sensible & feeling remarks were made to stir friends up to more carefulness & circumspection, which it is the desire of this meeting may be attended to ——

By reports from all the quarterly meetings, it appears that friends have continued some attention to the subject of Education, and that there still are Schools in several Meetings under the government of Society; but that the Subject has not made much progress since last year; Friends are nevertheless affectionately desired, as they regard the good of their Children, that they endeavour with renewed concern to promote the establishment of such Schools, in order that their offspring may have the advantage of a religious and guarded Education; and render an account of the State of this concern to this Meeting next year. ——

The Committee appointed to consider & report on the Subject of disowned persons &c made report; from which it appears that no alteration is necessary to be made to Discipline under this head ——

The Committee appointed to consider of suspending the public Meetings preceeding the Quarterly Meetings, and of the proposition from Rhode Island quarter on that Subject; propose that the Subject at large be refered to next yearly meeting; and that Rhode Island Quarter be left at liberty to make such alterations in the time and manner of holding their quarterly meeting for one year as may remedy the difficulty under which they labour, which is accepted and the Subject thus disposed of accordingly ——

The ——

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers accot &
-to consider of what Sum will be necessary to raise to
supply the Treasury the year ensuing, and what might
be most eligible for the Meeting to do in the matter
which came up from Falmouth quarterly Meeting
respecting the building of Meeting houses. Report
that they Settled the Treasurers account & find the
Sum of forty nine pounds & ~~five~~ Shillings now
in the Treasury, that from the best information they
can obtain of the demands on the Treasury now due
and which will be soon necessarily incurred, there
will be a deficiency of about £140, and they were
of opinion the Sum of £180, will be necessary to be
recommended to supply the Treasury. — They also
propose a recommendation for a Subscription for
the purpose of assisting in building the Meeting houses
in Falmouth Quarter. ———

And Nominated Caleb Greene for Treasurer
for the year ensuing, which is accepted, and Caleb
Greene is appointed accordingly; and the Representatives
are desired to apportion the several Sums to be raised
and report to morrow.

This Meeting is adjourned to the 10th hour
to morrow.—
13th day, Met by Adjournment.

The doings of the Meeting for Sufferings, as
contained on their Minutes, were read in this Meeting
from which it appears that they have paid atten-

attention to the several Subjects which have come before them; and as there appears to be several matters of much importance, now under their consideration: It is the desire of this Meeting that they endeavour weightily to attend to them.— The same Members who now compose that Meeting are still continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing, agreably to the former appointment and constitution of that Meeting, excepting Daniel Anthony, who is released at his request and David Buffum, Daniel Howland Junr. Isaac Lawton, Caleb Greene of Bedford, Richard Mowry, William Anthony, Samson Shearman & James Davis are added unto them.

This Meeting is adjourned to the 3rd hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met by Adjournment.

An Epistle from our Brethren in Philadelphia came to hand, and was read in this Meeting to our edification and comfort.

The Subject respecting the Indian natives, refered from last year, coming under consideration, & the doings of the Meeting for Sufferings on that Subject with what information they have received being also read, from which it appears, that most of the tribes of those people within this yearly Meeting are in some measure taken care of by the Legislatures within whose Jurisdiction they live; yet that they are much exposed to injury & Loss from people of divers descriptions, both in introducing Spirituous Liquors among them and in other respects; & find that the produce of their Lands, in some places, is much destroyed for want of their fences being sufficient to protect their Crops.

The

The Subject is again refered to the Meeting for Sufferings, and they are desired to lend them afsistance as way may open —

A Certificate for our friend Charity Cooke, who attended our last yearly Meeting, directed to the Monthly Meeting at Bush river South Carolina, was presented by the Womens Meeting and by direction of this Meeting signed by the Clerk. —

Also a Certificate for our friend Mary Prior whose labours in the Sittings of this Meeting have been to our Satisfaction, directed to the Monthly Meeting of Hertford (England) which was by direction of the Meeting Signed by the Clerk. —

Also an endorsement on the Minute produced by our Friend, Elizabeth Foulke whose company and Jervices have also been acceptable —

The Committee appointed for that purpose, report Epistles & Essays to the yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia & New York, which being read and amended, were by the direction of the Meeting Signed by the Clerk. —

The Representatives report an apportionment of the Money to be raised as follows. —

Rhode Island —	$ 240
Sandwich —	240
Salem —	84
Falmouth —	36
	$ 600

Which is accepted & they are directed to send their proportions to the Treasurer —

agreable to the proposition of the Committee — The Several quarterly Meetings are desired to enter into a Subscription in freedom to assist the quarterly Meeting of Falmouth in building several Houses, which they represent to this Meeting are necessary to be built to accommodate Friends, who are not in circumstances to do it without assistance, and send the Amount to the Treasurer of that quarterly Meeting, and an account to this Meeting next year —

The Clerk is directed to make out & Sign such extracts from the Minutes of this Meeting as are necessary to be sent down to the several Quarterly and to transcribe & sign the Corresponding Epistles, and put the Endorsements proposed on the Certificates, and Copies of the Minutes of our Friends John Parish & Wm Jackson, Silas Downing & Daniel Haviland, whose Company & Services have been truly acceptable to us — Also the Endorsements on the Minutes produced by our Friends Tripp & Mosher & John Philips —

This Meeting having been favoured to transact the Business which has come before us in brotherly love and Concord; under a sense where-of we adjourn to Meet again at this place next year if the Lord permit —

Signed in behalf of the Meeting

by — William Almy Clerk

to the Meeting this year —

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England by Adjournments, from the 10th 6th Mo. to the 13 of the same inclusive 1798.

To the Yearly Meeting of friends in London.

Dear Friends. Your affectionate Epistle of 5th Month last year hath been received & read in this Meeting to our edification and comfort; And under a renewed sense of the extension of heavenly regard vouchsafed to us at this season, in that we are again permitted to meet in this our annual Assembly (which hath been large as usual) the minds of many brethren have been humbled although violent commotions accompanied by war & blood-shed have for some time past been in great measure mercifully withheld from our Land; — We cannot but feelingly sympathize with you under the varied trials and exercises which the visitation you have of latter time laboured under, must have unavoidably subjected you to, and unite in fervency of desire, that we with you, in the course of our Submission to the governments under which we dwell, may be favoured to stand from evidencing to the world by our conduct as well as by profession, that we are endeavouring to possess a portion of that meek and quiet Spirit which breathes, peace on earth and good will towards men.

By the accounts brought up, from our several quarters, we have cause sorrowfully to acknowledge that

that, many are the deficiencies apparent in the Church, yet we may with thankfulness observe, that there are a living remnant preserved in the Several branches of this meeting, who are increasingly concerned for the support and advancement of the cause of Truth, and that divers have been joined to us by convincement since last year — That we are encouraged to hope, that as obedience keeps pace with knowledge, fruits will be brought forth which may redound to our own peace and the praise of the great giver of every good and perfect gift. — ——

Having through the course of the Several Sittings of this meeting, been favoured to feel a degree of the calming influence of holy help whereby we have been enabled to transact the weighty affairs which have come before us in brotherly love & condescention, under a Sense whereof we affectionately Salute you, and are,

Your friends & Brethren —

Signed on behalf and by direction of our Meeting aforesaid — By Wm Ilmy Clerk

P. S. Our beloved friend Mary Prior from your Land, hath been acceptably with us at this Yearly Meeting — — — — —

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From our yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for the New-England by adjournments from the 10th of the 6th Mo. to the 13th of the same inclusive 1798 —

To the yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held in Philadelphia for Pennsylvania, New Jersey &c. —

Dear Friends, — We have been again favoured through the gracious extendings of divine regard to meet in this our annual Assembly, which has been large, and the weighty affairs which came before us, have been resulted in a good degree of brotherly love and concord —

We received your Epistle of last year, on the reading of which, our minds were afresh impressed with brotherly Sympathy with you in the late afflictive dispensation of the prevailing sickness and mortality in your City; — may suitable reflections thereon occupy all our minds — —

By the Accounts now come up from our several Meetings it appears there are many deficiencies yet remaining in divers places, which are fresh causes of pain to the sensible among us: and it is also evident, that there is a number, who are concerned for the Honour and worship of God, and for the promotion of the great cause; may this number be increased among us and with you, and they encouraged to

to labour and come up in the help afforded to remove those things which obstruct the progress of our journeying on towards the promised Land.——

(The important consideration of the well-fare of the beloved youth, hath impressed our minds with earnest solicitude on their account, knowing that the weight of the testimony must shortly devolve upon them;——

Let us entreat you dear young friends, while health and opportunity is afforded, to discharge the duties that you owe to your Creator, by a faithful adherence to the dictates of the divine monitor, remembering that a neglect therein, is no less than withholding, that which is due to him alone, whereby the design of your Creation will be frustrated, and instead of the peaceful reward of the righteous, the fruits of disobedience will follow;— believing that the growth of the Church greatly depends upon the dedication of the rising generation——

Oh that you would enough consider the value of the few fleeting moments that are passing swiftly away, and never to be recalled, but will, if unprofitably Spent, be sooner or later deeply regretted.— May you arise & shake yourselves from the dust of earthly vanities, that ye no longer remain environed in bondage, but through the aid of holy help, stand forth as light to the world ~~More enquiry~~ into the Situation of the Indian Natives ~~evident~~ within the limits of this yearly Meeting, has taken place, and a concern continues to rest on friends minds to lend them aid & assistance for the spreading light of their gospel.— With the Salutation of love We are your friends & brethren.— Signed in behalf & by direction of our Meeting aforesaid by

Wm. Army Clerk.——

To the Yearly Meeting of New-York

Dear Friends—

Having been favoured to meet again in this our annual Assembly, & measurably to feel the guardian arm of holy help to aid in transacting the affairs of the Church, We affectionately salute you and inform, that we received your acceptable Epistle of 5 mo. last, and are with you desirous that all professing to be guided by the Prince of peace, may so live under his holy influence that they may individually know those hateful passions which lead to War, so done away through the operation of divine love, that they may submit to his government & become the subjects of his peaceable kingdom—

Notwithstanding by the Accounts brought up this Year, many deficiencies appear, we are still encouraged to hope that a living remnant are preserved in the Several branches of this Meeting and a renewed engagement experienced for the promotion of Truth in the earth—

The subject of a guarded Education of the rising generation still engages the attention of this Meeting, and some Schools under the direction of Monthly Meetings, have been established last year—

Some

Some enquiry into the situation of the Indians
Natives, resident within the limits of this yearly
Meeting have taken place, and a concern continues
on the minds of Friends, to lend them aid &
assistance, for the promotion of their good —
Feeling a measure of that brotherly love
which gave rise to communication in this
way, and desires that it may be continued
we again salute you, and bid you farewel.

Signed on behalf & by direction of our
yearly meeting of Friends, held on Rhode
Island for New-England by Adjournments
from the 10th of the 6 Mo. to the 13 of the same
inclusive, 1798 — Wm. Vinny Clerk to the meeting
this year — —

1799

At a Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island, for New England, beginning at Newport & Portsmouth, on the 16th for Worship & at Newport on the 17th of 6 mo 1799 for Church Discipline ——

The accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings being presented, the Representatives therein named, are, for Rhode Island Sylvester Hicks, Clark Rodman, Richard Mauny, Jas[t] Harris Rufus Smith, & Benjamin Slade - For Salem Ezekiel Hoyt, Paul Rogers, Samuel Collins, Squire Shove, & Richard Lane - For Sandwich Johne Hasket Zephaniah Buffington, David Kelly, James Tucker James Barker, & Adam Allen - For Falmouth Jeremiah Hacker Ebenezer Winslow, William Winslow, & Moses Hooper, who being called are all present ——

The Representatives having named William Rotch Junior Clerk, & Thomas Haviland assistant Clerk, for the Year ensueing which meeting the approbation of this Meeting, they are appointed accordingly ——

Our beloved friend Gervis Johnson from Ireland attended this meeting & produced Certificates, from the monthly Meeting of Antrim, & the Quarterly Meeting of Ulster, dated in 2[d] & 3 month 1797, from the half Years Meeting of Ministers & Elders for Ireland held in Dublin, in the 5th month following, expressive of their unity with him as a Minister, & also with his present concern to make a Religious visit to Friends in America, which were all read in this Meeting to our satisfaction, & his company very acceptable to us, many minds being drawn into tender sympathy with him in his present religious engagement at this advanced age ——

Samuel Slade having appealed from the Judgement of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, & appearing in this meeting & manifesting his desire to prosecute said appeal, & that Quarterly Meeting having appointed a committee to transact them therein, we appoint Samuel Rodman, John Taber, William Anthony, John Mosher, Peter Pollard, Samuel Collins, James Barker, & William Winslow - To hear the parties in Question, & report their judgement at a future setting of this Meeting ——

Epistles from our brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, & New York were rec[d] & read in this Meeting to our edification, and our minds were dipped into tender sympathy on hearing the feeling Accounts of the awfull Calamity that thro' the dispensations of Providence have

of[illegible] the City of Philadelphia the last year—

We have at this time had the acceptable company of our
of our beloved friends Chalkley Alberson & his companion Zachariah
Nixon from the Monthly Meting of Suttons Creek North Carolina,
Joseph Whitehall from the Monthly Meting of Woodbury New Jersey
Jonathan Evans from Philadelphia, Garret Burtis & his compan
John Christy from the monthly Meting of nine-partners,
Richard Mott from Purchase Monthly Meeting, & Abraham
Underhill from Amawalk Monthly Meting; who producing
Certificates from their respective meetings, they were read to satisfactio

This meeting adjourns to the 3d hour this afternoon—

afternoon met by adjournment—

The London General Epistle for last year was read to our
comfort & edification ———

The Queries with the answers from the several Quarterly Meetings
were read— Whereby it appears that the state of our Society is
nearly as followeth ——— Viz[t]—

That our Meetings for Worship & Discipline have been
all kept up, except two or three small meetings, thro' the severity
of the weather, & Sickness, and the greater part of our Members
diligent in the attendance of them, & mostly free from un-
becoming behaviour therein, except some instances of giving
way to sleeping, in which cases some care appears to have
been taken ———

That Love & unity are generally preserved, & labouring
backbiting, & spreading Evil reports, mostly discouraged, but
when any differences have arisen care has been taken by them

Altho there appears to exist with some friends a care of
bringing up their Children in plainness of speech, behaviour,
& apparel, yet many appear too relax & some not exemplary
themselves ———

Our Testimony against the unnecessary use of Spirituous liquors
against war, priest wages, & Slavery appears to be pretty well maintained
tho' not wholly without exceptions, And it appears that our Discipline
is generally supported ———

The matter rested from last year relative to the manner
of holding our Quarterly Meetings, coming again under
consideration we appoint Samuel Thurston, William Buffum,
David Buffum, Jonathan Chase, Moses Sleeper Thomas Watson
Jeremiah Austin Jun[r], Paul Rogers, Thomas Hatch, & Remington
Hobbey — to take that subject under their deliberation
& report their judgment thereupon at a future setting of this
meting ———

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting having requested
some explanation upon the rule of Discipline, relative to
removals & settlements, we appoint Clark Rodman, Richard

160 Dame, Smith Browne, John Winslow, Joseph Harris,
William & Buffum to consider thereof, & if they find it necessary
report some explanation thereto to this meeting ———

The appoint William Rotch, William Almy, Silvester Hicks
Samuel Rowland, Peter Pollard, Jethro Mitchell, William
Rowland, Daniel Anthony, Daniel Rawlins, Jun, Thomas
Wilson, to prepare a draft of Epistles to London Philadelphia
& New York & lay before this meeting ———

William Hazy, Ebenezer Winslow, John Wanton, Thomas
Rowland, & Squire Shaw, are appointed to settle our accompts
with the Treasurer, report the state thereof, & also what sum
may appear necessary to raise for the Stock the ensuing year

Having had the acceptable company of our belove friends
Rebecca Jones, Jane Snowden, Sarah Crispin, from Philadelphia,
& Ruth anna Fuller from Exeter Monthly Meeting Pennsylvania
at this meeting, their respective certificates were read, & their Gospel
Labours to our comfort & Edification ———

This meeting adjourns to the 3d hour this afternoon
18th day met by adjournment

The Record of the Meeting for sufferings, was read, And
the attention the members thereof have given to the subjects
that have come before them, appears to meet the unity of
this meeting, & the same friends are again continued to
form a meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, and to
proceed therein according to former appointment & constitution
of that meeting ———

The Committee appointed to consider the reference from
last year made report whereupon Rhode Island Quarterly
Meeting is left at liberty to regulate the holding of their meeting
in the next year as may seem best; and the subject as it
respects the Quarterly meetings in general, is for the present dismissed
and Rhode Island Quarterly meeting is requested to inform
us next year in what manner they think it may be best to have
that meeting fixed for the future ———

The Committee to consider the matter relative to removals &
settlements, report that having deliberated thereon, they think
the rule of discipline is sufficiently clear & explicit upon that
subject ———

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer report that
they have so done, & find a balance in our favr of Five hundred
eighty one Dollars 41 Cent & proposing the sum of Five hundred
Dollars for the present years stock, the Quarterly Meetings are
requested to forward to our Treasurer their following proportions
viz: Rhode Island $200, Salem $150, Sandwich $200, Falmouth $30

Caleb Gifford is appointed Treasurer for the Year ensuing —
This Meeting adjourns to the 9th hour tomorow morning

19th day met by adjournment ———

Rhode Island Quarterly Meting informe that they have approved of the appointment of Joseph Collins, Samuel Thurston, Richard Mitchell, Elizabeth Thurston & Josiah Shove, to the station of Elders and of the public appearance in the ministry of Thomas Holder-

Salem Quarterly Meting, that they have approved the appointment of Elizabeth Lurenton, of Salem & Ezekiel Hayt & Elizabeth Purinton 2d of Seabrook to the station of Elders - & Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that they have approved the appointment, of Obadiah Davis to the station of an Elder, and of the Public appearance in the Ministry of Lydia Rotch ———

The Quarterly Metings informe that they have forwarded to the Treasury their respective proportions of the Yearly Metings' Stock ———

By our reccommendation last year we are informed that the following sums have been recieved & forwarded for the assistance of Falmouth Quarterly Meting, in building Meting Houses Viz from Rhode Island $54.$\frac{37}{100}$ and from Sandwich Quatin $384.$\frac{25}{100}$ ———

By reports from several of the Quarterly Metings it appears that the subject of education still continues to claim the attention of friends, tho little progress appears to have been made since last year, and the importance of the subject still impressing our minds, it is offered again to the consideration of Next Yearly Meeting ———

The Committee upon Samuel Slades appeal made the following report — To the Yearly Meting now setting —

We the Committee upon Samuel Slades appeal from the judgment of Rhode Island Quarterly Meting, confirmatory to his denial by Swansey Monthly Meting - Having met the said Samuel & the Committee appointed by Rhode Island Quarterly Meting, and fully heard their respective representations — Do after a deliberate & carefull consideration of the whole subject spread before us unite in opinion that the judgment of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting & Swansey Monthly Meting, be reversed

Sign'd by William Anthony. John Mosher - Samuel Rodman
Samuel Collins. William Windsor. John Slocum
James Barker — Peter Pollard —

Which meting the acceptance of this meting, the judgements of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting & Swansey Monthly Meting are accordingly reversed ———

Thomas Rotch Joseph Austin, Thomas Arnold, David Buffum Jonathan Williams, & Richard Mitchell, are appointed to have the care of making the necessary provision for accommodating friends who are concerned to pass the sea, or elsewhere on Religious account according to Discipline, for the Year ensuing & pass it their accounts to the metings for sufferings ———

The Clerk is directed to forward to the Quarterly metings, such extracts as may be necessary from this mutings minutes ———

The Company of Religious services of our friends from the Western Yearly metings, having been acceptable, endorsements expressive thereof were made on their certificates & signed by the Clerk ———

Epistles to our Brethren at the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia & New York, were prepared read & corrected, & the Clerk is directed to have them Transcribed, sign them on our behalf and forward them to those respective Meetings ———

Having been enabled to transact the affairs of the Church, that have come before us at this time, in brotherly Love & Concord, we feel a renewed sence of thankfulness therefor, as ~~well as~~ that divine help has been in some degree afforded to us at our several sittings; and adjourn to the usual time next year then to meet again at this place if the Lord permit —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting, by

~~Wm Roth~~ Jun Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournment from the 16 of the 6th mo to the 19 of the same Inclusive

To the Next Yearly Meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends

We have rec'd your acceptable epistle of last year, which hath been read in this meeting to our edification, believing with you, that so long as our correspondence is continued in the Love & Simplicity of the Gospel, it will indeed contribute to our mutual comfort & encouragement

Our Meeting hath been as large as usual, & the business that has come before us, resulted in brotherly Love & Concord —

By accounts from our several Quarterly Meetings, we have the comfortable intelligence, that Love & Unity are in a good degree, mercifully preserved amongst ~~them~~ us. Yet we have with sorrow to observe, a departure in many from our Testimony in divers respects, on whose account breathing desires have been raised in some of our hearts, that such may be quickned in their minds to a lively sense of the dangers that await them, & that they may be prevailed upon to seek unto the Lord alone for their deliverance — And we have some consolation in believing, that there are a remnant engaged above all things for a renewal of that Love that only can enable them with propriety to adopt this Language "I am my beloved & my beloved is mine", with fervent desires to go up with him to the banqueting house, where his banner is witnessed to be over them in Love — There Learning measurable in the school of Christ, that nothing short of a life of true faith in him will be availing even that faith which is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen, that worketh by Love to the purifying of the heart enabling it to please God — Such are favoured at times to breath forth with

ardent desires for the whole heritage of God, & for the increase the
world over — May our beloved friends become more & more engage
to embrace this life of true faith, nothing doubting in him, who
hath declared the sufficiency of his grace to shall we be enabled to run
& not be weary, to walk & not faint, & to know preservation through
all our trials which are many & various in this day, and in
the conclusion of time be admitted into a glorious immortality.

Signed on behalf of our said Meeting by

Wm Leech Junr Clerk

P.S. We have had the very acceptable company of our beloved Friend Gen: Johnson from Ireland & several others in the ministry from the adjacent Yearly Meetings —

From our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 16 of the 6th month to the 19 of the same inclusive

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia

Dear Friends

Under a feeling sense of our Heavenly Fathers love, renewedly extended unto us, at this time, we affectionately salute you, & acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of last year, the reading of which in this our annual assembly deeply affected our minds, in the consideration of the late awful dispensation of sickness & mortality, with which the City of Philad^a has been visited; the solemn events whereof occasioned your altering the time of holding your Meeting — We feelingly sympathize with you in the removal of those friends by death, who attended your meeting in the 9th month last, and desires have been raised that their example when living may encourage the Beloved Youth, & others more advanced, to come up in their footsteps & follow them as they followed Christ — It being with solid satisfaction that we have received the communication thro' your Epistle that a number of the Dear Youth upon whom the important concerns of society must soon devolve, are embracing the invitation of divine regard, & we are ardently desirous that the number may increase, & by a steady adherence to the manifestations thereof may attain a stability in the unchangeable truth ———

By the Accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings we are possessed of the General Knowledge of Friends,

14th composing this meeting and altho it is an affecting consideration that many deviations from the profession of our profession exist among us - we are comforted in a belief that there are in the several branches, some who are Zealous in their labours & we trust in some instances successful in their endeavors to reclaim the backsliding & awaken the inattentive to a sense of their duty & eternal well-being These knowing that their strength consists in a Knowledge of their own weakness and dependance upon the Lord alone for right qualification to become instrumental in their promotion of truth & righteousness - we are earnestly solicitous they may keep on their watch-Tower & by their exemplary lives & conduct, attract others, who may be afar off to come forward & by sincere dedication of Heart become Co-workers with them ———

Signed on behalf of said Meeting by
William Rotch Jun Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England from the 15th of the 6 mo to the 19 of the same inclusive 1799

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in New York

Dear Friends

We have received cause to consider & humbly to acknowledge the great privilege of our thus assembling in our Yearly Meeting, having been favoured with that which is indeed the Crown of our Assembly, under a sense of which the hearts of many were bowed in humble Thankfulness, and therein favoured with Brotherly Love and Condescention, in transacting the various Concerns that have come before this meeting

We rec'd your acceptable epistle of 5 mo last & were comforted in believing that there is a number in various parts preserved alive that are not bowing the knee to Baal who see & experience the name of the Lord to be a strong tower wherein the Righteous flee & are safe who are exercised & at times sorrow taketh hold of them in believing the departure of heart from the Lord among

the Children of men, who like sand formerly are ~~,~~ at willing 165
to receive Christ in the way of his comming, least he should
came to Rule & Reign over them - But we believe the Lord will
turn & overturn, among the Nations, until he hath humbled
& brought down the loftiness of Man untill they know he
ruleth in the Kingdoms of men, & puttith down & setteth up
whomsoever he will; we see with you the necessity there is
of deeply pondering the path of our feet, and laying the foundation
sure that in the day of trial we may be enabled to stand
faithfull to him that hath called us remembering that no
temptation, divination, nor enchantment, can prevail
against his, but that the Seed & his followers shall have
the Victory —— We were glad to see that the welfare of the
welfare of the Indian Natives still occupied a place in your
minds, and we hope it will have due place with us -

In Love we salute you, and are your friends -

Signed by Direction & on behalf of the meeting by

Wm Rotch Junr Clerk

At a Yearly Meeting of Friends held [illegible] on Rhode Island, Commencing [illegible] at Newport and Portsmouth yesterday for worship and this morning 16th of 6th Mo. 1800, at Newport for Church Discipline ——

The representatives from the several quarterly meetings are — from Rhode Island, David Buffum, Joseph Harris, Samuel Thurston, Walter Allen, Richard Mowry, Thomas Holder, Nathan Harkness — John Foster, Sylvester Weeks. ——

Salem — Paul Rogers, Ezekiel Hoyt, Samuel Collins — William Brown — John Pratt, Micajah Collins, —

Sandwich — Jeremiah Austin Junr. Caleb Greene, Joseph Wing, Peter Pollard, Laban Mitchel — Falmouth, [illegible], Ebenezer Winslow, John Robinson, Joseph Douglass, Edward Cobb, whose names being called are all present, excepting Nathan Harkness who informed that indisposition prevented his attendance ——

Our beloved friend Hugh Judge from new york attended this Meeting with a Certificate from the monthly meeting of New-York dated 2nd & 3rd of 4 Month last endosed by the quarterly meeting of Westbury held at Flushing 24th of 4th Mo. ——

Also our friend Nathan Hunt with a Certificate from the monthly meeting of Springfield in Guilford County Carolina dated 7th of 12 Mo. 1799, Endorsed by the quarterly meeting of New-Garden dated 14th of 12 Mo. all expressive of their Unity with them as Ministers, and with their concern to visit friends in these parts ——

Our friend William Mitchell also attended this meeting with a copy of a Minute from Nine-Partes Monthly meeting dated 15th of 5 Mo. 1800, expressive of their unity with his attending this meeting, and that he was an Elder in unity with them — all which were read to our Satisfaction ——

The printed general Epistle from our friends & brethren in London with the one particularly addressed to this meeting [illegible], were read to our edification and comfort, as also the Epistle from our friends and brethren at New York ——

The subject of Education, as referred last year, accompanied with additional circumstances, being taken up, and obtaining the Solid attention of this meeting ——— Moses Brown — John Fry, William Rotch, Moses Buffington, John Taber, Elisha Thornton, Thomas Arnold, Joseph Tongdon, Richard Mowry, Thomas Hazard, Joseph Harris, William Bassett, Paul Rogers, David Buffum, Jeremiah Austin Junr., John Wilber are appointed to take the Subject under consideration and report what Steps may usefully be taken, the most effectually to promote a religious and guarded Education ———

Rhode Island quarterly meeting having reported that they apprehended a division of that Meeting into two quarterly Meetings would be of advantage, but not proposing a line of division; and the Subject not appearing sufficiently ripe to decide upon at this time — Jeremiah Austin Junr. Caleb Greene of Bedford, William Macy, John Baily, Joseph Wing, William Anthony, John Taber, Samuel Collins are appointed to visit that Meeting, and the several monthly meetings of which it is composed, and report their Sense and judgment to this meeting next year both respecting the Division and the line thereof, including the times and places of holding said meetings, and any other matters appertaining thereto, if a division of said quarterly meeting shall appear eligible to them ——— This meeting is adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon ———

Afternoon, met by adjournment ———

The representatives having nominated William Almy Clerk, for the year ensuing, and Thomas Howland Assistant Clerk, which being approved they are appointed accordingly ——

The

The Queries were read in this Meeting and the Answers thereto, from the several quarterly Meetings -- a Summary of which is as follows. ——

That our meetings both for worship and discipline, have been all attended, excepting a few small meetings in one quarter, some of which were in the time of the quarterly meetings - The deficiency of many in a careful attendance of mid-week meetings, and a painful account of the insensibility of some, evidenced by their sleeping when assembled for the purpose of worshipping of almighty God ——

That love and unity are generally preserved; but not so fully in some instances as is desirable; — Tale-bearing &c discouraged -- and where differences have arisen care has been taken to end them ——

That there does exist a care among most friends, to bring up those under their direction in plainness, and to be exemplary themselves; yet that there are instances wherein this care and this example is much wanting ——

That our testimony respecting the use of Spirituous Liquors, bearing of Arms or being concerned in military matters, appears to be pretty carefully maintained; though a greater care is needed in some instances respecting the first, and in a few as it relates to the last, in regard to participating in the profits arising from Insuring on armed Vessells -

That our discipline in general is pretty well maintained, though more care appears to be needed, in timely labouring with those who deviate, and in seeking the qualifications and wisdom ——

Micajah Collins, George Crosfield, Caleb Greene, Obadiah Brown, Daniel Brayton, Job Chalonor, Clark Rodman, Daniel Howland Junr, Benjn Trevborn, Sylvester Wickes, David Williams, Wm. Hilton, John Casey, Jonathan Longdon, Thomas Rotch* are appointed to prepare Essays of Epistles to the yearly meetings of London, Philadelphia and New-York; and if on reviewing the reports from the quarterly Meetings, way opens for a communication to them, that they report an Essay, also prepare Certificates and endorsements for our friends now present and for our friends Gervas Johnson and his companion Joseph Whitall —

Ebenezer Winslow, Samuel Thurston, Abraham Barker, John Pratt, John Howland, George Shove, Thomas Hazzard are appointed to settle the Treasurers Accounts, propose a Sum suitable to be raised for supplying the Treasury, and Nominate a Treasurer ———

The Women's meeting presented a Copy of a minute from the Monthly Meeting of Nine-partners dated 18th of 4th Mo. on behalf of our beloved friend Ruth Hallock, certifying their unity with her as a Minister and with her Visit to friends here; — also a copy of a minute from the same Meeting on behalf of Sarah Hull her companion, both of whom are acceptably at this meeting ———

This meeting is adjourned to the 11th hour to Morrow.

17th day, Met by adjournment ——— The representatives all present as yesterday ———

An Epistle from our friends and brethren of the yearly Meeting of Philadelphia, held in 4th Mo. last, was received and read in this meeting, to Satisfaction ———

The quarterly meeting of Falmouth having desired the advice of this meeting, respecting a late Law of the State of Massachusetts, making provision for Friends exemption from milatary requisitions on producing a Certificate

agre

*Benj. Trevborn, Sylvester Wickes, David Williams, Wm. Hilton

agreeably to the form prescribed in said Act — And the doings of the Meeting for Sufferings, at their Meeting in the 5th Mo. last, on the same Subject being also read:— Wm. Rotch, David Buffum, Elisha Thornton, John Taber, Moses Brown, Peter Pollard, Ebenezer Winslow Richard Mitchell, John Robinson, John Foster, Jeremiah Austin Junr. Jonathan Chase, Saml. Collins, Caleb Greene (Bedford) Richd. Mowry, John Douglass, Joseph Collins, John Pratt, Caleb Buffum, Paul Rogers, are appointed to take the Subject into consideration; and report their Sense & Judgment thereon to a future Sitting of this Meeting— They are also desired to take into consideration the reference on the minutes of the meeting for Sufferings at their last meeting respecting the situation of Friends in the State of Massachusetts, on account of a Law relative to Ministerial Taxes (so called) and report thereon —

This meeting is adjourned to the 5th hour this afternoon —

Afternoon, Met by adjournment —

The Minutes and doings of the meeting for Sufferings for the year past, being read, their attention to the busines which has come before them is satisfactory to this Meeting— The same members who now compose that meeting are continued to constitute a meeting for Sufferings agreably to the former appointment and constitution of that meeting —

This meeting is adjourned to the 10th hour to Morrow —

18th day met by adjournment —

The Representatives all present as yesterday —

The Committee for that purpose report, that they have settled the Treasurers Accounts, and find in his hands $\$468\frac{94}{100}$ and propose $\$500$, to be raised to supply the Treasury; and propose that Caleb Greene be appointed Treasurer; which being approved Caleb Greene is appointed Treasurer accordingly — and the several quarterly Meetings are desired to raise the Sum proposed in the following proportions — viz. Rhode Island $\$200$ — Salem $\$70$ — Sandwich $\$200$ — Falmouth $\$30$, and to send the same to this Meetings Treasurer, and an account thereof to this Meeting next year ——

The Committee on Epistles reported Essays to London, Philadelphia and New-York, which after being read and amended, were approved, and the Clerk is directed to make out fair Copys thereof and sign them on behalf of this meeting, and forward them as directed and report to the Meeting for Sufferings ——

They also presented a Certificate for our beloved Friend Gervas Johnson directed to the Monthly Meeting of Antrim - the quarterly Meeting of Ulster and half years Meeting of Ministers & Elders for Ireland, which being read and approved, is by direction of this Meeting signed by the Clerk ——

The Committee on the Subject of Education reported the following Minute to be sent down to the several quarterly and monthly meetings, which being read and considered is adopted ——

It is agreed by this yearly meeting that the present state of Education of the rising generation among friends calls loudly for their renewed engagement & more serious attention: That one School, at least, ought to be set up within every monthly meeting belonging to this yearly meeting ——

to

to be under the care and direction of the Monthly meeting, and to be adapted as Suitably as may be to the Situation & number of Children, and to the ability of friends in each meeting ——

And it is further recommended that any monthly meeting, who upon due and weighty consideration shall apprehend that they are not of ability of themselves to Set up a School, that they recommend and open a Subscription towards the Setting up and Supporting a School, and that they Send up an account of their proceedings therein, with the Amount of their Subscription to the quarterly meeting to which they belong, which quarterly meeting is desired to aid Such monthly meeting in Setting up Such School by their advice and assistance; which quarterly meeting may never the-less, if they judge it most conducive to the end in view, join two or more monthly meetings in the maintenance and Support of a common School — And if more assistance shall be needed from any quarterly meeting than they are able to defray without unreasonably burthening themselves, that Such quarterly meeting make application to our next yearly meeting, carefully Sending up an account of their proceedings, with the amount of the assistance afforded to any meeting or meetings within the same, with the amount of the Sum over what they have discharged, or may feel themselves of ability & freedom to discharge; — To the intent that this meeting may take measures in order to discharge the same ——

And the Several quarterly and monthly meetings are desired to pay particular regard to our discipline respecting Schools — And the meeting for Sufferings are desired to take into their consideration, the Subject of friends proportion of the public Taxes for the Support of Schools & to take Such measures for obtaining the same for the Support of friends Schools, as way may open for & they may think best,

and

And that any monthly meeting who may see their way clear, may, in the mean time, be at liberty to apply to the authority of the Town or Towns where their Members live for the same

And friends are desired to send an account of their progress in this important concern to our next yearly Meeting

The Meeting for Sufferings are desired to send up to this meeting next year, an account of the state of the Funds of the yearly meetings School

This meeting is adjourned to the 3rd hour this afternoon

Afternoon, met by adjournment

The Committee to whom was committed the reference respecting friends at Bolton in the State of Massachusetts by the Meeting for Sufferings, report, that the affecting Subject of the imprisonment of one Friend, of which they inform that they have received authentic information, and the Sufferings of others in the County of Worcester in the State aforesaid, for not paying Taxes for the Support of a Hireling ministry, has been considered by the Committee, and it is their Judgment that the same be recommended to the care and attention of the meeting for Sufferings, and that they cause such application to be made to the Superiour Court or to the State Legislature, or both as may appear most likely to obtain relief, or use such other means as may appear best, which being approved is thus disposed of

They also report, that the application for advice from Falmouth quarter, be also referred for the further consideration of the meeting for Sufferings, which is also approved, and the same is refered to them accordingly

The Clerk is directed to make out and Sign, in behalf of this meeting, Such of the minutes as may be necessary to be sent to the several quarters, and forward the same to them

Cer

Certificates for our beloved Friends Hugh Judge & Nathan Hunt with Endorsements on the Copies of minutes of our beloved friends Wm Mitchell, Ruth Hallock & Sarah Hull whose company & Services have been very acceptable to this Meeting, were produced by the Committee, and by Order of the meeting Signed by the Clerk.—

This meeting having been favoured to transact the Business, which hath come before us, in brotherly love and concord, conclude and adjourn to meet again at this place next year, if the Lord permit.—

Signed on behalf of the Meeting by.—

Wm Almy Clerk to the Meeting this year.

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England from 16th of 6 Mo to the 19th of the same inclusive, 1800.—

To the yearly meeting of Friends in London.—

Dear Friends— We have been again favoured to collect together in this our annual Assembly, which has been as large as usual; And we have greatfully to acknowledge the extension of heavenly help, that has qualified us to transact the weighty concerns that have come before us in love and concord.—

We have received your general and particular Epistles of last year, which have been read to our edification and comfort.

We

We have received accounts, from the several Meetings belonging to this, in which are contained information that many deficiencies remain among us, notwithstanding the labour that has been bestowed; yet we are thankful in having cause to believe that a considerable body remains (who are endeavouring to keep their first love) and that divers among us who have been convinced last year, are making progress on the sure foundation; [illegible]

May all those with us [illegible] and with you, who are chusing the Lord for their portion, and the God of Jacob (the lot of) for their inheritance, be more and more engaged to serve him with a perfect heart — and renewed engagement of spirit, that truth and righteousness may spread far and wide, and the name of the Lord be exalted above every name ——

It is with satisfaction we inform you, that our general government at their late Sessions, have made such additions to the Law heretofore past for the abolition of the Slave-trade, as affords a rational prospect that this iniquitious Traffic will be done away in those States which afford encouragement to keep under a travail and exercise for the promotion of every good word and work ——

P.S. We observe by your Epistle that ours for the year 1798, was not received by you last year, though care was taken for that purpose, a duplicate of which is now forwarded.

With the salutation of love we remain your friends & Brethren — Signed in behalf and by Order of said Meeting by William Thorp Clerk to the Meeting this year ——

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 16th of 6th mo. to the 19th of the same inclusive, 1800 —

To the next yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia

Dear Friends,

We received your acceptable Epistle of 4th mo. last, which was read to our comfort & satisfaction — & your acknowledgement of the extension of divine love being mercifully extended, gives renewed cause to hope that infinite kindness is still near, and may also express with Thankfulness, that the same benign influence has attended us in this our annual Assembly, by which we have been enabled to transact the weighty concerns which have come before us in harmony and Concord —

And dear friends may we duly regard this invaluable principle, and abide under its influence as we are persuaded that in obedience thereto is comprized the whole of religious, Social & relative duties, and from which is derived all the Solid comfort, consolation & support that can be attained to and enjoyed, under the consoling operation of which, the preference will be given to a communion with Heavenly good to all other considerations, by this also our Sensibility will be quickened, which at times will cause us to mourn over those whose eyes are so blinded by the God of this world, that they see but little of the beauty that there is in the Tents of Jacob, and have no relish for those enjoyments which are alone witnessed by those whose dwelling is in everlasting love — — — —

& With the Salutation of love we remain your Friends and Brethren — Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by

Wm Almy Clerk to the Meeting this year

From our Yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island by Adjournment from the 16th of the 6th Mo. to the 19 of the same Inclusive 1800

To the next yearly Meeting of Friends in New-York

Dear Friends — Your acceptable Epistle hath been read in this our annual Assembly, and we feel our minds constrained to salute you our brethren we trust in a degree of that fellowship that breatheth peace on Earth and good will to men; — Earnestly desiring the perseverance of such as have proved the insufficiency of every dependance, other than that placed upon the head of the Church both among you and us; and that such as have been at times favoured to see the beauty & excellency that there is in the truth, may unreservedly embrace it, whereby these will be enabled to adopt this language; — How goodly are thy Tents O Jacob, and thy Tabernacles O Israel —

We have in our Several Sittings been favoured to witness the influence of divine love graciously extended for our help, and we believe it hath been a season of renewed thankfulness, in which we are comfortably persuaded that some of the beloved youth have participated — Great hath been the solicitude of some of our minds for an increase & furtherance of this number every where, and that the glorious dispensation of this gospel day may availingly & more abundantly gather the Children of men from the Spirit of War and contention to that of the prince of peace whereby they may know

an

an increase and establishment of his Kingdom, even to the ends of the Earth — The information that the Subject of the Indian Natives continues to excite your Sympathy and attention, hath felt very Salutary and comfortable to us, feeling we truely united with you therein in endeavours for their help and improvement —

— With the Salutation of love we remain your Friends & Brethren —

Signed in behalf and by Order of said Meeting by —

William Almy Clerk to the Meeting this Year

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island, for New England begining at Newport for Church Discipline, the 15th of 6th month 1801 ——

The Representatives from the several Quarterly Meetings are ——

Rhode Island, William Almy, Jabez Wing, Daniel Anthony, Daniel Brayton, Sylvester Weeks, Richard Mowry & Joseph Collins ——,

Salem, Samuel Collins, Paul Rogers, Ben Morrell Jr, Ezekiel Hoyt, Micajah Collins, James Bliss, & Henry Oliver ——

Sandwich, William Ratch Jr, Abisha Bunker, James Barker, William Anthony, & Jeremiah Austin Jr ——

Falmouth, Rufus Hartow, Samuel F Hussey, Thomas Jamy & Joseph Douglass —— who being called were all present ——

The Representatives having nominated William Ratch Jr Clerk and Benjamin Trueborn assistant Clerk which being approved, they are appointed accordingly ——

Our beloved friend John Hall from Great Britain attended this Meting, with Certificates from Pardshaw Monthly Meting, dated 19th of 3d month 1799 the Quarterly Meting of Cumberland & Northumberland, dated 28th of same month & from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders for 1799 —— Also our beloved friend Stephen Grellet of New York, with Certificates from the monthly Meting of New York, dated 1st of 4mo: last, & Westerly Quarterly Meg 23d of the same —— Also our beloved friend Joseph Hoag from Vermont, with Certificates from Danby Monthly Meting, dated 5th & 7th of 11th mo: last & Easton Quarterly Meting 12th of same; their company & Gospel labors, have been very acceptable to us, & the Clerk is directed to furnish the two latter with Copys of this minute as for as

it respects them ——

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting in their Ans^r informs; they have united with Greenwich Monthly Meeting in approving the Public Appearance in the Ministry of Lydia Hicks; with Swansey Monthly Meeting in approving that of Benjamin Buffington; & with Rhode Island Monthly Meeting in approving that of Ruth Shearman: also with Providence Monthly Meeting, in appointing Phebe Brown to the Station of an Elder ——

Salem Quarterly Meeting in their Ans^r informs, that they have concurred with Salem Monthly Meeting in approving the Public appearance in the Ministry of Micajah Collins & the appointment of Matthew Pennington to the Station of an Elder; also with Weare Monthly Meeting, in approving the Public Appearance in the Ministry, of Samuel Brackenbury; & with Dover Monthly Meeting, in the appointment of Sarah Cartland to the Station of an Elder — Likewise that they have concurred with Salem Monthly Meeting, in disapproving the Ministry of Alice Needham ——

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting informs in their Ans^r that they have concurred with Nantucket Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Abisha Bunker to the Station of an Elder —— And Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, informs they have concurred in the appointment of Jeremiah Bailie to the Station of an Elder, by Vassalborough Monthly Meeting; also with Durham Monthly Meeting, in approving the Ministry of Amos Davis, & the appointment of John Whiting to the Station of an Elder ——

Adjourned to the 3^d hour this afternoon ——
Afternoon met by adjournment ——

Epistles from our Friends & Brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, & New York, were rec^d and read, in this Meeting to our satisfaction ——

The Queries were read in this Meeting, with answers thereto, from the several Quarterly Meetings ——

Clark Rodman, Daniel Anthony, William Anthony Thomas Arnold, John Lawton, John Wilbur, Micajah Collins, Thomas Moulton Abisha Bunker & Henry Oliver

are appointed to renew the State of Society as represented in said Answers, and make out a Summary thereof, and present to this meeting — Also prepare Essays of Epistles to our Brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia & New York ——

John Jabez Smith Brown, Caleb Gunn (of Bedford) Paul Rogers, William Macy & Obidiah Brown, are appointed to audit the Treasurer's Accounts, propose a sum suitable to be raised to supply the Treasury the Year ensuing, and nominate a Treasurer ——

Certificates for our beloved friends Ann Mifflin & Mary Gilbert, from the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia, dated 1st of 6th month 1801, expressive of their unity with them as Ministers, and concurrence with their Concern to make a Religious Visit to friends here, were read in this meeting to Satisfaction & their company is acceptable to us — Also a copy of a minute from the same Monthly Meeting, on behalf of our friend Richard Jarman, expressive with their concurrence with his accompanying the aforesaid friends ——

This Meeting adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow 16th inst by Adjournment ——

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings were read, by which it appears they have attended to the business that has come before them, in a manner that meets the approbation of this Meeting — and after deliberating upon the Subject it is concluded, that a new appointment of that meeting take place at this time, whereupon we appoint Elisha Thornton, William Hunt, Moses Brown Sylvester Wicks, Thomas Arnold, Joseph Harris, Jeremiah Austin Jr, David Buffum, Joseph Collings, John Jabez Samuel Collings, George Howe, Samuel Thurston, Caleb Gunn (of Bedford) Richard Mitchell, William Buffum, John Fry, William Anthony, Paul Rogers, Clark Rodman, Richard Mowry, Thomas Rowland, Benjamin Trueborne, John Casey, Isaac Barker, William Rotch Jr to compose a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year agreeable to the former appointment & Constitution of that Meeting, and each Quarterly is at liberty when they think best to appoint in addition thereto not exceeding four friends ——

The Committee appointed yesterday report that on Settlement of the Treasurer Acc^t there appears a Balance in fav^r of this Meeting of $283.$^{53}_{100}$ & proposing $500 to be raised the ensuing Year — The Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward their following proportions — Viz^t, Rhode Island $200 — Salem $70 — Sandwich $200 — Falmouth $30 — to our Treasurer, and an account to Next Yearly Meeting

Caleb Greene is again appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year ——

Adjourned to the 4^th hour this afternoon ——

Afternoon met by Adjournment ——

From the observations of our Brethren of Philadelphia and New York in their Epistles and from other sources of information the attention of this Meeting hath been excited, towards the Calamitous Situations of many of our Brethren & others in Great Britain & Ireland, thro' the great scarcity (unparalled for many years) and consequent high price of provisions in that Country — and whilst we are impressed with a grateful sense of the abundant favors, vouchsafed to us in this Land, from the bountiful hand of kind Providence — a feeling Sympathy for the sufferings of our Fellow-Creatures in those Countries excites a Desire, that by our Liberality, they may be enabled to participate with us, in those temporal Blessings: wherefore it is recommended to Friends, to enter into Liberal Subscrip-tions for their Relief, and forward the same as speedily as may be, to William Rotch, William Macy & Wm Rotch Jr^r who are directed to forward Bills for the same, to the Meeting for Sufferings in London, to be distributed at their discretion; and the Clerk is directed to forward a Copy of this Minute to each Monthly Meeting ——

The Committee appointed last year made the following Report —— To the Yearly Meeting to be held in the 6^th month next ——— We the Committee appointed at last Yearly Meeting to consider of the division of Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting &c. have attended thereto, and most of us visited most of the Monthly Meetings

in said Quarter, together with the Quarterly Meeting - and
after endeavoring weightily to deliberate & consider thereof
it is our sense and judgment, that advantage may arise
from the following division Viz.: That the monthly
Meetings of Smithfield, Exeter, Ballon & Richmond be set
off from Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting, and that they
constitute one by the name of Smithfield Quarterly meeting
and that it be held as follows - Viz.: ——

At Smithfield the 5th day before the 2d sixth day in
the second, fifth, and eleventh months - and at Ballon
the 5th day before the 3d sixth day in the eighth month
and that those when said meeting is held at Smith-
-field there be no public Meeting held there on that
Account —— and that Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting
hereafter held in Smithfield in the 10th month, be held
in Providence, at the same time it was held at Smith-
-field; and the other times of holding said Rhode
Island Quarter, be at the same times & places in which
they were before held ——

Smithfield the 10th of 10th month 1801
Signed on behalf of the Committee by
John Bailey
Sarah Otis

Which is accepted, and the division therein proposed
is adopted, and it is concluded that the two Quarterly
Meetings of Rhode Island & Smithfield, be held at the
times and places therein proposed, & if it appears to
them that any alteration either in time or place for
holding them, would be more agreable, they are request
to inform the Yearly Meeting thereof, next year, and
we appoint Cornelius Haviland, Isaac Lawton, Eber Davis,
Moses Brown & William Rotch Jr. to sit with friends
at the opening of the new Quarterly Meeting ——

Each of the Quarterly Meetings inform in their
Accounts that they have directed their several proportions
of the Yearly Meeting stock forwarded to our Treasurer

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning

19th day met by adjournment ——

By the Reports from the several Quarterly Meetings it appears, that the Concern of this Meeting relative to the establishment of Schools under the care of Monthly Meetings, has claimd some attention in friends minds & divers Schools have been established under the care of friends, and a prospect of some others being opened — Yet we are sorrowfully affected by the information that some instances have occurred, even where Schools were established by Monthly Meetings, that some friends have been so inattentive not only to the Concern of the Body on this subject, but we fear to the precious dictates of truth in their own minds, as to send their Children to public or other improper Schools, whereby their tender minds are in danger of suffering Loss. Under these impressions, we are concerned to exhort all in profession with us, deeply to consider the important duty we owe to our beloved Offspring, whose mind it is incumbent upon us to watch over with all diligence, that they be trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord — and we further desire that friends may be encouraged not only to labor in the ability afforded in the Spirit of brotherly affection & meekness, to prevent such inadvertencies in future, but also with fervency & hope, persevere in endeavors to effect the object of this Meetings concern, as far as our individual circumstances may admit, & by no means admit the consideration that the Sacrifice of those outward favors entrusted to our Stewardship, should be put in competition with the all-important object of the present and eternal welfare of our beloved Children

Each Quarterly Meeting is requested to report their progress during next Year ——

S The Meeting for Sufferings having enquired into the State of the School-fund, find that with the Interest due up to the first day of the present year it amounts to $3837,40/100 — and the consideration of the important

benefit that may be expected to redound to the rising
generation by the establishment of a boarding School under
the care of this Yearly Meeting, having deeply exercised our
minds, & a feeling concurrence of sentiment therein being
manifested, that some steps be taken at this time towards
its promotion, we appoint John Jones, Smith Brown,
David Buffum, Sylvester Wicks, Obadiah Brown, Elisha
Thornton, William Macy, William Rotch, Asa Smith,
Jazaniah Barrett, Joseph Collings, Moses Brown, Moses Jr
Jeremiah Austin Jr. Samuel Collings, Thomas Arnold, William
Olney, Benjamin Slade, Samuel F. Hazzy, Richard Mawry
& William Rotch Jr. to take the subject into solid deliberation
& if way open propose to the adjournment of this
Meeting, what mode may be best adopted, at this
time ———

The Committee thereto appointed presented the following
as the summary of the reports from the several Quarterly
Meetings ——— Meetings are generally attended by most
friends, nor the hour observed, tho' some deficiences are
apparent, generally clear of unbecoming behaviour
except some appearances of drowsiness ——

There appears to be a good degree of Love & Unity
subsisting among friends & generally concerned to avoid
discourage Tale-bearing & to end Differences ———

many friends appear to be exercised to bring up those
under their care in Plainness, tho' precept & example
are wanting in many instances, the Scriptures are
publickly read in most families ——

The frequent use of Spirituous Liquors & attending
Places of Public Resort generally avoided, tho' there are
some exceptions —— A good degree of care respecting
the Poor — and to maintain our Testimony on Rect
of Marriage — also to maintain our testimony respect-
-ing Priest-wages, War, & the bearing of Arms with
some few exceptions ———

There appears to be a good degree of care among friends to settle their accounts, & make their Wills, tho' there are many deficiences therein — Our Testimony against Slavery appears to be maintained — There are a few Instances of deficiency in friends not performing their promises, and paying their debts; tho' carefull in the general — Care is generally taken respecting records and Removall Certificates — Also to deal with offenders and judgment placed — Care appears to be taken in the genral respecting the above deficiences, tho' in some instances not so timely as would be best —

This meeting adjourns to the 4th hour this afternoon —

Afternoon met by adjournment —

The Committee appointed this morning made the following report —

We your Committee have solidly considered the subject referred to us this morning and are united in recommending that the Yearly Meeting appoint a Committee, to promote subscriptions throughout the Yearly Meeting, to increase the School-Fund at such time, & manner as they may think best, & also to consider & fix upon some eligable plan for Establishing a Boarding-School, with such other plan for the promotion of the object in view, as may occur to them, and report to our next Yearly Meeting their success & progress therein —

Signed on behalf of the Committee
William Rotch Jr
Lydia Wickes

which is accepted, and we appoint James Barker, David Williams, Elisha Thornton, Obadiah Wheeler, Sylvester Wickes, William Knowles, Daniel Brayton —

Richard Mauny, Jan^a Cairgdan, Benjamin Depew
Smith Brown, William Gifford, William Macy, Caleb
Greene, John Birch Jr. Joseph Tucker, Matthew Pirrington
Paul Rogers, Samuel F. Hussey, Joseph Douglass, John Tabor
Ezekiel Hayt, Moses Brown, David Buffum, Wm Robt Jr.
Geo. Hazard, William Anthony Thos Arnold & Peleg Mitchell
a Committee for the purposes therein recommended

Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of our Brethren
of London, Philadelphia & New York, being prepared
read & approved, were signed by the Clerk —

By the advice of this Meeting yesterday a
number of Friends were engaged in the needful service
in promoting Subscriptions of the Relief of Friends &
others in Great Britain & Ireland, who reported
at this time that they have received subscriptions
for $2375 12/100 which they are desired to pay to the
Committee appointed to forward the same — in
consequence hereof, said Committee are hereby
authorized to remit Speedily Three Thousand Dollars

This Meeting being thankfully impressed
with a sense of Divine Goodness, graciously afforded
to us in the several sittings hereof, whereby we
have been able to transact the weighty con-
cerns of Society, which have been before us, in
much Brotherly Love & condescention — concludes
with Divine Permission to meet again at this
place next Year — Signed on behalf of said
Meeting by William Rotch Jr Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting held at Rhode Island for New England from the 13th of the 8th mo: 1801 to the 17th of the same inclusive ——————

To the Yearly Meeting of London ——

Dear Friends.

We have received your acceptable Epistle of last year, and are again comforted in the fresh testimony of your remembrance and Brotherly Love — under a sense whereof, and of the merciful consideration of our Heavenly Father, in continuing the visitation of his Divine Light and Life to his Children, wherever planted, (and which hath been graciously vouchsafed to us at this time) we affectionately salute you — Earnestly desiring that every dispensation of Divine Providence, whether of favor, or chastisement, tho' a corresponding return of humble gratitude, and resignation, may produce upon our minds, the happy effects intended: an increase of the Love of the Gospel, of his dear Son our Lord Jesus Christ —— This meeting has been as large as usual, and altho' many weaknesses and deficiencies appear by the accounts brought up from the several Quarters, yet a number are engaged and strengthened to labor in the Heavenly Vineyard, and we hope there is an increase of those who are looking Zion-ward, particularly among the Youth — may the uncertainty or insufficiency of all Earthly acquisitions, a sense whereof is at times graciously vouchsafed, awaken the attention of the heedfully minded, to more substantial enjoyments, and more durable Treasure — may it animate the Lukewarm, and quicken the engagement of all ranks of our Society, to a more sincere and ardent travail in the way of humility and self-denial, towards the Heavenly City where only we can find a place of uninterrupted enjoyment, peace and rest ——

Having received information of the Sufferings

of Friends and other among you and in Ireland,
thro' the Calamity of war, and the consequent
scarcity of bread, the affecting relation of which,
has excited our Sympathy and commiseration, and
spread a concern among us, to afford some assistance
towards their relief, in consequence of which we have
promoted subscriptions for that purpose, which when
completed, will be transmitted by an early opportunity
to your meeting for Sufferings to be disposed of at their
discretion among the necessitous ——

Signed on behalf of and by
the
Meeting
Wm Rotch Jnr Clerk

We have at this time had the Company of our Friend Jonathan
John Hall from your land whose company and Religious Services
have been acceptable and edifying to us ——

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode
Island for New England by adjournments from
the 13th of the 8th month 1802 to the 17 of the same inclusive

To the next Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia

Dear Friends

Among the many blessings con-
-ferred by the all bountiful hand, we esteem this your
being once more favored to meet together in this
our Annual Assembly, as a precious privilledge; under a
humbling sense whereof the minds of many Brethren
have been renewedly dipped into and exercise and
travail, for the promotion of the cause of truth ——

Your Epistle of the 4th mo: last was received
and read to our Satisfaction in this meeting, which
this hath been about as large as usual, and altho' by
the accounts brought up from the several Quarterly
Meetings, we have cause deeply to lament the degeneracy
of many under our name from the simplicity
of our Religious principles, we are comforted in believing
that a lively exercised remnant is still preserved, in
the different branches of our meeting, who are mea-
-surably engaged to unite in travail, for the preservation
and growth one of another, & that our Sion may
arise and shake herself from the dust of the earth
and put on her beautiful garments ——

Your account of the Sufferings of our friends
and others in Europe with information received

from other Quarters has excited our Sympathy and Commiseration, and spread a concern amongst us to afford some assistance towards their relief, or alle=viation, for which purpose we have promoted sub=scriptions ——— Signed on behalf of our sd Meeting by William Rotch Jr Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England from the 13th of 6th mo: 1801 to the 17th of the same Inclusive —

To the next Yearly Meeting of New York

Dear Friends

We have been favord to meet together and by a participation of Divine Favor feeling our minds united in Brotherly Love, have been strengthned to accomplish the business which has become before us, to our mutual edification yet the cup of blessing has been mingled with a degree of bitterness occasioned by the observance of many deviations amongst us ———

We received your acceptable Epistle of 5th mo: last and it is with satisfaction we observe your benevolent attention to the Sufferings of our Brethren in England the account of which has excited our Sympathy and has resulted in the promotion of Subscriptions for their assistance ———

We gratefully observe your account of the encreasing utility of the establishment of Schools for the guarded education of our Youth, and the pleasing prospects which you anticipate will be probably realized, by a steady perseverence in promoting so desirable an object, and have the satisfaction to inform you that a similar concern

appears to be spreading in this Yearly Meeting.
and we are encouraged to hope, that we may not
relax in our care and concern therein, being per=
=suaded that if our exertions are continued under
the direction of best Wisdom, our endeavours will
be Blessed, and that the present and future generations
will derive essential benefits from such institutions

Signed on Behalf of our Sd Meeting

William Rotch Junr Clerk

At our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode-
Island for Newengland, beginning with public
Meetings for Worship on first day the 13th of 6th mo.
1802 at Portsmouth and Newport and second day
morning the 14th at Newport for Church Discipline

Accounts were received from the several Quarterly meetings,
by which it appears the following friends are appointed re-
presentatives viz.t

For Rhode Island — Thomas Arnold, Benjamin Mead Daniel
Brayton Obadiah Williams & Rowland Greene

Salem — Peter Worrel Estes Vernall Ezekiel Hoyt
Micajah Collins Paul Rogers and John Page

Sandwich — Obadiah Davis, James Ducker, Paul Wing
Saban Nichols and Cornelius Howland

Falmouth — Jacob Taber Jur. John Taber Caleb Estes John
Winslow.

Smithfield — William Buffum Daniel Aldrich Abel
Haughton and James Smith, All presents

The general Epistle from the Yearly meeting of friends in
London, together with the usual corresponding Epistles from
our brethren of the Yearly meetings of London Philadelphia
and Newyork were received and read to our edification.—

A committee to receive subscriptions last year made the
following report, viz.t Pursuant to the appointment
of the yearly Meeting last year we received the subscriptions
made for the relief of our brethren in great Britain and
Ireland, amounting to $4125 and remitted the same to the
meeting for Sufferings in London in the sum of £928.2.

Sterling
6th mo. 14th 1802.

William Rotch
William Mary
William Rotch Jur

Sylvester Wicks Peter Morril William Macy Isaiah Hacker and Richard Mory are appointed to audit the Treasurers accounts report the state thereof and the sum they may think proper to be raised the ensuing year and propose a Treasurer.

Thomas Arnold Richard Mowry and Quinton Richard Dame Obadiah Davis jun. Nath. Hiney Caleb Buffum Micajah Collins Daniel Hammond and Peleg Mitchel are appointed to prepare epistles of correspondence also a Certificate for our friend John Hall —

The Quarterly meeting of Smithfield having proposed that their meeting in the 5th month be held at Leicester instead of Smithfield it is acceded to and it is ordered accordingly to be held at Leicester on the 5th day before the second 6th day in the fifth month

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon —

Afternoon met by adjournment

The representatives having produced Obadiah Davis for Clerk and Micajah Collins assistant clerk, the same is approved by this meeting and they are appointed to that service for the ensuing year. —

The Queries have been read in this meeting and answers thereto from the several Quarterly Meetings an exercise has been witnessed on account of the many deficiencies still apparent amongst us several weighty and pertinent remarks were made and recommended to the due observance of friends the Clerk and assistant are requested to make out a summary of the answers and present to this meeting

This meeting adjourns to the tenth hour tomorrow morning

Third day of the week and 15th met by adjournment

The representatives present. —

Rhode Island Quarterly meeting in their account inform that they have united with Rhode Island monthly meeting in the appointment of Benjamin Freeborn and Susanna Almy to the station of Elders and with Swanzey monthly meeting in the appointment of Daniel and Eunice Brayton to the same station

Salem Quarterly meeting in their account inform that they have united with Ware monthly meeting in approving of the public appearance in the ministry of Daniel Bailey and Jane Gove also in the appointment of David Gove to the station of an Elder. —

Sandwich Quarterly meeting in their account informs that they have united with Nantucket monthly meeting in approving the public appearance in the ministry of Dorcas Gardner and Mary Barker and with Sandwich monthly meeting in the appointment of Daniel Bowman with Dartmouth monthly meeting in the appointment of Prince Wing with New Bedford monthly meeting in the appointments of Cornelius Howland and Elizabeth Rodman and with Nantucket monthly meeting in the Northern District in the appointment of Isaac Mitchell to the Station of Elders. —

Falmouth Quarterly meeting in their account informs that they have united with Durham monthly meeting in approving of the public appearance in the ministry of Ralph Douglas

Smithfield Quarterly meeting in their account informs they have united with Bolton monthly meeting in approving of the public appearance in the ministry of Thomas Watson and with Uxbridge monthly meeting in the appointment of Asa Potter to the Station of an Elder

(1) The Records of the meeting for Sufferings were read by which it appears that they have attended to the business which came before them in a manner truly satisfactory to this meeting and the same friends are again continued to compose a meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year and to proceed therein agreable to the former appointments and constitution of that meeting

By accounts from the several Quarterly meetings it appears they have directed their proportion of this meetings stock for last year paid to our Treasurer

A concern having been spread in this meeting on account of the situation of the few friends who reside in Nova Scotia, and with a desire to gain further information relative to the particulars of their situation we appoint Samuel Collins Daniel Anthony Joseph Harris

William Routh Jun^r Elisha Thornton Jonathan Mowry John
Haber Sylvester Wicks Joseph Collins Jethro Mitchel
David Buffum Moses Brown and Thomas Arnold
to take the matter under solid consideration and make
report to a future sitting of this meeting what they
may think best to be done in that case —
Adjourned to the fifth hour this afternoon
Afternoon met by adjournment
The Clerk and assistant have prepared a Summary
of the Answers from the several Quarterly meetings
which are as followeth viz^t

Meetings are generally attended by most Friends and
the hour observed, mostly clear of unbecoming behavior
a few instances of drunkenness excepted. Love and unity in
a good degree maintained in general, tale bearing backbiting
& mostly discouraged, and care taken to end differences
Many friends are careful to bring up those under their
care in plainness and to restrain them from reading
pernicious books and corrupt conversation and to be
exemplary herein — but a remissness prevails in others
both in example and precept the holy scriptures are read
in friends families —

Our testimony appears to be generally maintained a=
gainst the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors and against
frequenting taverns and places of public resort a few instances
excepted a good degree of care in regard to the poor and to
maintain our testimony relative to marriage, priests
wages, war and the bearing of arms, though not without
a few exceptions —
A good degree of care prevails among friends with respect
to settling accounts and making wills, although there are
many deficiencies our testimony is maintained against
slavery —
A few instances of failure in preforming promises though
care is generally taken our records are generally attended
to and mostly careful in regard to removal certificates
Friends are in a good degree concerned to deal
with offenders and to place judgments according to discipline
care appears to be mostly taken respecting the above
deficiencies

The Committee appointed last year to promote subscriptions for the institution of a boarding school have made the following report. viz.t

Agreeable to appointment we have several times met and conferred on the subject of promoting the yearly meeting school and agreed upon and recommended a subscription to friends of the several monthly meetings and under an expectation of fixing a sum within the ability of friends to raise, adequate to the immediate institution of the school would tend to augment the subscription, it was therein proposed to subscribe on condition that £16000 be raised or the subscription be returned, and as about half that sum has been subscribed, though a small proportion only of the number of friends who are well able to do something for the institution have yet subscribed notwithstanding the unanimity and harmony which appeared in the concern in our last yearly meeting. We therefore submit to the solid consideration of the meeting after duly weighing the subject in view and the causes which may probably have obstructed its success, whether sufficient liberality and encouragement may not be felt again to recommend the subscription to the more general attention of friends, subject to the condition that the money so subscribed be not demanded or payable untill the aforesaid sum of 16000 Dollars shall be subscribed signed on behalf of the committee by Thomas Arnold

Newport 6th mo 14th 1802 William Rotch Jr.

To the yearly meeting now sitting

The Committee appointed last year to promote subscriptions for the institution of a boarding school have made the following report. viz.t

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Newport 6th mo 14th 1802 William Rotch Jr.

To the yearly meeting now sitting

Which again reviving the subject before us and our minds being deeply exercised in favor of the institution the committee is continued to the care of that matter and they are again encouraged to promote subscriptions for the purpose of instituting said school upon the plan proposed by the committee in the report. and we appoint Jacob Mott Jur. Nathan Hussey Jur. Thomas Rotch Jur. Thomas Robinson Jur. Stephen Wilbur Zephaniah Wilbur Jur. Richard Mott Samuel Rodman Jur. and Josiah Howe an addition to said committee and they together to report to next yearly meeting

The committee to take into consideration the situation of the few friends at Nova scotia report that they think it best they be continued under the care of Sandwich Quarterly meeting and Nantucket monthly meeting for the Northern district and if that Quarterly meeting should hereafter find any advice or assistance of this meeting necessary that they propose the same to a future yearly meeting with which this meeting unites and the clerk is directed to forward a copy of this minute to Sandwich Quarterly meeting

The committee to settle with the treasurer report that on attending thereto find a balance in favor of this meeting of 385 100 Dollars and propose that $500 be raised the ensuing year the several Quarterly meetings are requested to raise it in the following manner Rhode Island $125 Salem $70 Sandwich 225 Dol Falmouth $30 Smithfield $50 and forward the same to our treasurer and an account to next yearly meeting; Caleb Greene is appointed treasurer for the ensuing year.

This meeting adjourns to the tenth hour tomorrow morning.—

Fourth of the week and 16th met near the time adjourned to

Most of the Quarterly meetings in their accounts inform that some progress has been made in regard to establishing schools agreable to the recommendation of this meeting. the unabated diligence and attention of friends is earnestly and affectionately recommended to this desirable object of the important and guarded education of our youth that the same may be carried still further into effect agreable to our discipline and the advice of this meeting last year and a copy of this minute is directed to be forwarded to our several Quarterly meetings.

The committee have presented a certificate on behalf of our beloved friend John Hall directed to the monthly meeting of Pardshaw the Quarterly meeting of Cumberland and Northumberland and to the Yearly meeting of ministers and elders held in London which was read and after some amendments approved and is directed to be transcribed and signed on behalf of this meeting by the Clerk

The Committee on Epistles presented essays to London Philadelphia and New York which after being read and some amendments made were approved and the clerk is directed to make out fair copies thereof and sign them on behalf of this meeting. —

We have again had the company of our beloved friend Joseph Hoag his religious labors have been truly acceptable to us and the clerk is directed to give him a copy of this minute. —

Under an humbling and grateful sense of divine goodness in not only favoring us to meet together but which hath been mercifully extended to us through the several sittings of this meeting whereby we have been enabled to transact the weighty concerns of society which came before us in a good degree of brotherly love and harmony, we conclude — proposing by divine permission to meet at this place next year at the usual time. Signed on behalf of said meeting by Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New-England by adjournments from the 13th to the 16th of 6th mo. 1802

To the Yearly meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends Having been again permitted to meet in this our Annual Assembly ... We have been edified by your Epistle of last year, especially in observing the exercise of your minds, that all may know their foundation to be laid upon the immutable rock Christ Jesus, the prevalence of this exercise and travail, hath also been comfortably witnessed amongst us at this time, and it hath been cause of thankfulness that in the present day of degeneracy, when many minds are turned aside after speculative opinions leading to doubts and disbelief of the truths of the Gospel, we have grounds to believe that Friends generally

have been mercifully preserved from swerving from the
faith of our holy profession. —

Although in reviewing the state of our Society
by the reports from the different branches of this meeting
we have to lament the departure from the practical rules
of self denial and rectitude yet we have had renewed cause
of encouragement in believing that love and unity is still preserved
amongst us and that many are exercised in our various depart-
ments for the promotion of good order in the visible church
and for the building one another up in the most holy faith
and it is with peculiar satisfaction we see many of the
Dear youth disposed to be of this number and that
there has been divers added to our society by convincement since
last year. —

It is cause of thankfulness to the father of mercies who
ruleth in the kingdoms of men that the sword is once more
sheathed and the scourge of war removed as well from Europe
as America. — We have felt our minds engaged in affection-
ate sympathy with you and desire to unite in returning
thanksgiving and praise to him whose mercies endure
forever. — Signed on behalf of our said meeting

Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for
New England by adjournments from the 13th of 6th mo to the 16th of
the same inclusive 1802. —

To the yearly meeting of friends at Philadelphia

Dear Friends Your acceptable Epistle of 4th mo last is
received and was read in this meeting to our satisfaction
especially the agreeable intelligence that you had been favored
to consider of and result the subjects which had been under
your deliberation in much brotherly condescension and harmony. —
The same we have gratefully to mention, has also
been comfortably experienced by us in this assembly
which distinguishing badge of discipleship, and or-
naments of our holy profession, we hope will al-
ways be mercifully vouchsafed, and continue to char-
acterize the professors of the blessed truth. —

This meeting has been as large as usual, and though by the reports brought up from the several quarters it appears, that there are many who are still encompassed with weakness and fall greatly short of an honorable attention to the efficacious principles of our holy profession, yet that there are a number who are desirous above every other consideration that the way of the Lord may be more and more prepared in their hearts. These wherever scattered either with you or with us we hope may be strengthened to press through all, and by cleaving singly to that which is good know an establishment upon that foundation which is immutable. —

The subject of the slave trade and the injustice done to the much injured and enslaved africans still engages the attention of our minds with desires to do what may from time to time open as our proper business in this important concern. —

We were comforted in your information that this concern had been impressively on your minds, and that your endeavors for the benefit of the Indian natives was likely to prove successful — We hope that all our exercises may be so sanctified in these as well as every other concern as to enable us to be instrumental in promoting the righteous cause. — Signed on behalf of our said meeting by Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New-England by adjournments from the 13th to the 16th of 6th mo in-clusive 1802

To the next Yearly meeting of friends to be held in New York

Dear Friends Under a sense of the condescending Love of our heavenly Father, in the gracious extension of his divine notice and regard, wherewith he has been pleased to favor us in

in this our Annual assembly we affectionately salute you.— earnestly desiring that our correspondence may be kept up in a savor of that life and virtue which will preserve strengthen and draw closer the bands of brotherly love.—

Your acceptable epistle of last month was received and read in this meeting to our comfort and satisfaction, and we lament with you the many deficiencies that remain among us as a religious society, and the deviations that are manifesting themselves from time to time on the right hand and on the left but still there is reason to hope and at times to see the sincere hearted and faithful laborers in the Lords vineyard, for it is not laid wholly waste, but is encompassed by the munition of his own preserving power, and defended by the truth which still remains to be the same.—

Your account that the boarding school at Winchester continues to prosper and that you are encouraged to persevere in the concern, affords satisfaction and encouragement to many minds with us—

Our meeting has been as large as usual, and we have been enabled through divine help to transact the various concerns of the Church that have come before us in a good degree of brotherly love and harmony; wherein we again salute you and remain your affectionate friends and Brethren.—

Signed on behalf of said meeting—

By Obadiah Davis Clerk
to the meeting this year—

At our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England beginning with publick meetings for worship both at Portsmouth and Newport on first day the 12th of 6th mo 1803 and at Portsmouth on second day morning the 13th for church discipline

Accounts were received from the several Quarterly meetings by which it appears that their representatives are as follows Viz for Rhode Island Moses Brown Job Sherman Daniel Howland Benjamin Slade and Peter Lossie

Salem Peter Horrel John Pratt Samuel Collins David Stone Enoch Hoeg jur John Bulleen and Caleb Bulfinch

Sandwich Samuel Rodman Joseph Tucker Smith Brown and Peleg Macy

Falmouth John Tabor Amos Davis Wm Winslow Rufus Hotchkiss and Thomas Jones

Smithfield Josiah Stowe Thomas Watson Daniel Aldridge Benjamin Dexter and Chad Smith

who being called are all present

The general Epistle from the Yearly meeting of Friends in London was read to our satisfaction

Our Beloved Friend James Simpson attended this meeting with Certificates from Horsham monthly meeting in the State of Pennsylvania dated 4th mo 27th 1803 and Horsham quarterly meeting dated 5th of 5th mo last also our Beloved friend Richard Mott attended with a Copy of a minute from Purchase monthly meeting held the 11th of 5th mo last which were read to satisfaction and their company and religious services have been truly comfortable and edifying which was endorsed on their certificates

William Winslow John Pratt William Almy Smith Brown and Chad Smith are appointed to audit accounts with the Treasurer report the state of it and the sum they may think proper to be raised the ensuing

[illegible] proposed a Treasurer & a Recording Clerk —

Samuel Bodman, Daniel Brayton, Daniel Howland, Obadiah Williams, William Rotch jun^r and Thomas Perry are appointed to prepare Epistles of Correspondency to the yearly meetings of London, Philadelphia and Newyork

We adjourn to the fourth hour this afternoon.

afternoon met by adjournment

The representatives having proposed Obadiah Davis Clerk & Micajah Collins Assistant Clerk which being approved of they are appointed to those services for the ensuing year. —

Epistles from our brethren of the yearly meetings held in London, Philadelphia and Newyork were read to our comfort and edification. —

A Certificate was produced for our beloved friend Martha Simpson wife of our aforesaid friend James Simson from the same monthly meeting and Quarterly meeting expressive of their unity with her as a minister and concurrence with her in her concern to make a religious visit in company with her husband to Friends in the Eastern States. — Also a copy of a minute from the monthly meeting of Newyork held the 4th day 5th mo last on behalf of our friend Elizabeth Byrd expressive of their sympathy and concurrence with her in a prospect of accompanying our beloved friend Elizabeth Coggeshall in her proposed religious visit to Friends within the limits of this yearly meeting which were read to satisfaction and their company is truly acceptable. —

Rhode Island Quarterly meeting in their account informs that they have united with Greenwich monthly meeting in approving the public appearance in the ministry of Rowland Greene with Swanzey monthly meeting in approving that of Abigail Lawton and with Portsmouth monthly meeting in the appointment of John Tilley Andrew Nichols jun^r and Mary Peckham to the station of Elders. —

Salem Quarterly meeting informs that they have united with Salem monthly meeting in approving the public appearance in the ministry of Betsey Brunton, Mary Shaw and Elizabeth Breed and with Seabrook monthly meeting in approving that of Jonathan Beede. —

Sandwich Quarterly meeting informs that they have united

with Pembroke monthly meeting in the appointment of Sarah Otis to the station of an Elder and in approving of the public appearance in the ministry of John Bailey with New-Bedford monthly meeting in approving that of Obadiah Davis and with Nantucket monthly meeting in the appointment of Peleg Mitchel to the station of an Elder. —

Smithfield quarterly meeting inform that they have united with Sutton monthly meeting in the appointment of Lydia Gates to the station of an Elder and in approving the publick appearance in the ministry of Lydia Tiffany with Richmond monthly meeting in approving that of Mary Southwick and with Uxbridge monthly meeting in approving that of Ira Smith. —

The several quarterly meetings in their accounts inform that they have directed their respective proportions of the Yearly stock paid to our Treasurer. —

The following very acceptable communication was received from the meeting for Sufferings held in London. —

London Meeting for Sufferings 3. of the 9th mo. 1802

To the Yearly meeting of Friends for New England

Dear Friends

The Committee of this meeting appointed to distribute your bounty to such of our members and others as were reduced in circumstances, in consequence of the late scarcity and high price of provisions has now presented us with its final report. —

The sums received from the different meetings on your continent amounted to £8326. 18/5, which appear to have been applied to the relief of eight hundred and ten cases of friends and four hundred and twenty of those not in membership, exclusive of the number of both classes [illegible] in Ireland which we apprehend to be about one

seventh more. The proportion of the above sum received from you was £928. 2/6 from the attention of our committee, we have reason to believe the distribution has been made in a manner conformable to your view, with care and judgment and it is comfortable to us to be able to inform you that the assistance has been in most instances seasonable and very gratefully accepted

This country is now much relieved from its pressure, and in a thankful sense thereof and of your sympathy and benevolence we are your affectionate friends. — Signed in and on behalf of the meeting by Geo. Stacy Clerk at this time

The records of the meeting for sufferings were read whereby it appears that they have attended to the business which came before them in a manner satisfactory to this meeting the same friends are continued to compose a meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year to proceed therein agreeable to the former appointment and constitution of that meeting

Salem Quarterly meeting made a proposition relative to a more suitable place of holding our Yearly meeting whereupon we appoint John Saber Samuel Rodman William Roth Jr. John Pratt Abel Claughton John Bailey Sylvester Weeks Asa Smith Daniel Aldridge Benjamin Dexter John Winslow William King and Peleg Mitchel to take the same into solid consideration and report thereon to a future sitting of this meeting

We adjourn to the 10th hour tomorrow morning
3d of the week and 14th met not by adjournment

The representatives being called are all present

The Queries have been read in this meeting and Answers thereto from the several Quarterly meetings on which many solid and weighty remarks were made which we desire may have due place in all our minds. A Summary of the Answers is as followeth

Meetings are generally attended by most friends although it appears that some of our midweek meetings are sorrowfully small, the hour is mostly observed a few afflicting instances

& slothina, generally clear of unbecoming behaviour

Love and unity is in a good degree maintained, tale bearing backbiting and evil reports are mostly discouraged and care is taken to end differences.

Many friends are concerned to bring up those under their care in plainness restraining them from reading pernicious books and corrupt conversation and to be exemplary herein, bitt there appears to be a difficiency both in example and precept the holy Scriptures are read in friends families mostly carefull in the use of spirituous liquors and in frequenting places of public resort, a general care in regard to the poor and to maintain our testimony relative to ~~marriage~~. — Priest wages war and bearing of arms, a few instances excepted with respect to marriage Most friends are careful to settle their accounts & some attention is paid to making of wills, our testimony is maintained against slavery. —

A care appears to be taken in regard to the performance of promises a few instances excepted our records are generally attended to and careful in regard to removal certificates. Friends are in a good degree careful to deal with offenders and to pass judgment according to discipline care appears to be mostly taken in regard to the above deficiencies

The 3d and 8th Queries particularly claiming the attention of this meeting we appoint Samuel Rodman Moses Brown Clark Rodman William Rotch Jr Paul Rogers Daniel Aldridge David Buffum John Taber Elishia Thornton and Joseph Collins to take those Queries into consideration and report such additions thereto as may be necessary if any should appear to a future sitting

We adjourn to the 9th hour tomorrow morning

4th of the week and 15th not by adjournment. —

The committee to settle with the treasurer report that on attending thereto find a balance in favor of this meeting of $350 2/90 and propose that $500 be raised the ensuing year the several Quarterly meetings are requested to forward it to our treasurer in the manner apportioned last year Caleb Greene

is appointed treasurer for the ensuing year

The Committee appointed last year to promote subscriptions for the purpose of encouraging a boarding school having made report they are released from further attention thereto and as the said Committee have not been able to obtain a sufficient fund to commence a school, at present the subscriptions are relinquished and this meeting feeling a renewed concern that the object of establishing a school for the promotion of a guarded education may still be kept in view and be put in execution as soon as it can be usefully effected do recommend to the several Quarterly and monthly meetings to encourage friends to a liberal subscription

And the meeting for sufferings are recommended to take up the subject and proceed therein as way may open in best wisdom to promote subscriptions for the increase of the permanent fund or for subscriptions for annual expenditures for the school when established. And if way should open for them to apply such annual subscriptions and the interest of the present fund, either by establishing a school under their care or in conjunction with any Quarterly meeting who have or may establish a school under the care thereof they are at liberty to proceed therein as they may think proper consistent with the principles upon which the present fund is held

The Committee appointed last year report that they think the subject of fixing upon a more suitable place of holding our yearly meeting of sufficient magnitude to engage the further attention of this meeting whereupon we appoint Daniel Aldridge Thomas Watson Sylvester Weeks Jos. Wm Harris William Wetherald Isaac Brown Samuel Rodman John Bailey and James Barker to visit the Quarterly meetings of Salem and Falmouth upon the subject and endeavor to gain such information respecting the situation of friends in those Quarters together with any circumstances relative to the conveniencies of friends accommodations as they may think necessary and report to our next yearly meeting

The Committee appointed to consider of some of the Queries recommend that the following be adopted instead of the 2d 3d & 8th Queries which is agreed to and those alterations are directed to be inserted in all our books of Discipline and separate Queries —

2d Is love and unity maintained amongst you and is detraction guarded against and where any differences arise are endeavours used speedily to end them

3d Are friends careful to bring up those under their direction in plainness of speech behavior and apparel to restrain them from reading pernicious books and the corrupt conversation of the world are they good examples therein themselves and are the holy Scriptures frequently read in their families

8th Are friends careful frequently to inspect their affairs and settle their accounts whilst in health and are public gifts and legacies applied to the use intended by the Donor —

This meeting adjourns to the 4th hour this afternoon

Afternoon met by adjournment

The Committee on Epistles presented Epsaus to London Philadelphia and Newyork which after being read, and some amendments made were approved and the Clerk is directed to have them transcribed and sign them on behalf of this meeting

The Clerk is directed to extract from our minutes such of them as may be necessary to send down to our several Quarterly meetings and forward them thereto

Through the gracious extendings of the Lords goodness we have been comforted in feeling his presence at this time whereby we have been enabled to transact the business which came before us in a good degree of brotherly love and ~~harmony~~ condescension under a thankful sense whereof we conclude intending by divine permission to meet again at this place next year at the usual time

Signed on behalf of said meeting by Jadiah [illegible] Clerk

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England from the 11th to the 15th of 6th mo 1803 inclusive

To the Yearly meeting of friends in London

Dear Friends Having been again permitted to meet together in this our annual Assembly, we have had renewed cause of thankfulness in experiencing the continuation of our heavenly Fathers love visiting many of our hearts in a travail for the advancement of the cause of truth within our borders that thereby the precious testimonies committed to our charge may be supported, and an increase of faithfulness and dedication witnessed, by all those who have been favored with the humbling visitations of Divine love. Precious indeed are those blessings which are continued to the children of men, a constant attention whereunto, unites the hearts of all, of what nation or country in the promotion of the cause of righteousness and peace upon the earth. —

Our meeting has been large and much unanimity hath prevailed in our deliberations upon the important concerns that have been before us, and we are encouraged to believe that love and unity are preserved among us, and that a concern is maintained in the various branches of this meeting for the support of our Christian Discipline. and have a comfortable hope that truth is gaining ground and diverse have been added to the society by convincement since last year. —

Your acceptable Epistles of last year were read in this meeting and administered comfort to many minds in giving the evidence of your continued concern, for our preservation upon the immutable foundation Christ Jesus the rock of ages, may all the professed of the Lord of hosts remain to drawing as you observe, we are more desirous that as we keep our eye single unto God, his blessings may be extended to us to find his and our Enemie

And by a letter from your meeting, in Lifting

that the token of our affectionate regard and sympathy for those who were sufferers from the late scarcity of provisions proved acceptable and useful — and we desire to unite with you in humble gratitude to the great preserver of men, for multiplying the fruits of the earth in your land as well as ours — and also for the continuance of the blessing of peace to our respective countries praying that the prevalence of his love may so operate upon the hearts of both Rulers and people, as to exclude those lusts and passions, which produce the dreadful calamities of war. —

A few of our members in the State of Massachusetts, having been subjected to some suffering for nonpayment of a tax for the support of an hireling ministry, on an application to the legislature, we are thankful in having found in that body a very respectful attention to our situation and a disposition to give us a ~~very~~ satisfactory remedy evincing a desire to preserve to us the full enjoyment of our religious rights. —

Signed on behalf & by order of said meeting
by Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 11th to the 15th of the 6th mo. inclusive 1803

To the Yearly meeting of friends in Philadelphia

Dear Friends Having at this our annual assembly been favored with the receipt of your epistle of fourth month last on the reading thereof we were comforted and edified. — Although it appears from the state of Society brought before the view of this meeting

that too many who make profession with us for want of due attention to the quickening impulse of divine regard fall short in supporting the precious testimony given us to bear, and which so eminently distinguished our worthy predecessors in the truth. — Yet we are encouraged to believe that a faithful band is preserved, whose greatest delight is to endeavor to be found walking in the law of the Lord. That this comparatively small number may be encreased, is our fervent desire

The concern of this meeting hath been a fresh excited toward a portion of our members who through want of faith in the gracious promises of our dear redeemer can easily neglect our religious meetings to their unspeakable loss. — we have ardently desired that this days, of whom are to be found, perhaps in every place, throughout our profession may be aroused, to a sense of the situation such lukewarmness and indifference has a tendency to precipitate them into before they are called upon to render a solemn final account of their stewardship

It is cause of humiliating regret that in this free country and enlightend age laws should exist that involve suffering on account of military or other laws, repugnant to the feelings of tender ~~conscienc~~ consciences, — may the individuals thereto exposed both among us and you, be so preserved, that no reproach may attach to our holy profession, by a patient suffering under unreasonable exactions, where redress is not attainable, may may in the Lords time be made for an amelioration of such grievances under the government of Massachusetts, which presides over the largest part of our body no burdensome military laws is exercised over our Society. And it is with gratitude to the Author of all our benefits that we acknowledge its mildness and condescension in amending a law, at the instance of a Committee from our meeting for Sufferings that

had subjected a few of our members to taxes for the support of an hireling ministry. —

It yields us satisfaction to find that your care to improve the situation of the indian natives has resulted in encouragement for further endeavors on behalf of that people. so benevolent a purpose we trust will have its reward. —

Our meeting has been as large as usual, and favored throughout to transact its business that came before it, with harmony and concord. — Signed on behalf and by order of said meeting by · Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England from the 11th of the 6th mo. to the 16th of the same inclusive 1803

To the Yearly meeting of friends in New York

Dear Friends We may inform you that our meeting hath been large at this time and through the reboundings of divine goodness many hearts have been comforted and renewedly enabled to put their trust in the Lord, having indeed to see that he is the Physician of value who alone is able to heal the wounds of his people, and who in great mercy we believe is graciously disposed to heal all those who apply to him in true and living faith, and that love has been felt which desires all may experience that peace which he gives, that they may avail themselves of the blessed invitation, look unto me all ye ends of the earth and be ye saved and under a feeling sense of this love we have been enabled to labor for the help and amendment of the weaknesses that still remain amongst friends of the several Quarterly meetings hereto belonging. —

We received your acceptable of this present year which was
read to our edification and comfort.

Desires have ben raised at this time that we with you
may be individually engaged to attend to the openings and
pointings of divine wisdom, believing the Lord makes use
of instruments for the help of his Church, that there is no
useless member therein, and by and through that, with that
worke by Him to the purifying of the heart be enabled to do what-
soever he commands, so will the Church be benefitted, by the gifts
bestowed on us, and we experience that consolation which arises
from a consciousness of having endeavored to discharge our
several duties, as faithful servants, we feel an encreasing solicitude
that friends may carefully attend to the pointings of truth in
all their movements, lest they be captivated by the prevail-
ing disposition of an in inordinate love and pursuit of the
world whereby we have cause to fear that some who have
been highly favored of the Lord have fallen into snares and
temptations and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting
by Obadiah Davis Clerk

At our yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New-
England beginning with public meetings for Worship both at
Portsmouth and Newport on first day the 10th of 6th month
1804 and at Newport on second day morning the 11th
for Church Discipline.—

Accounts were received from the several Quarterly meet-
ings hereto belonging the representatives thereof appointed are
viz.t For Rhode Island & Sylvester Weeks Obadiah Williams
Obadiah Brown & Peter Hoxie and Benjamin Buffinton
Salem Daniel Gove Samuel Collins Paul
Rogers Nathan Beede & William Brown & Micajah Collins
Sandwich Samuel Rodman Samuel Macy
James Barker and Smith Brown
Falmouth Moses Sleeper George Ramsdale
Evans Davis and Edward Cobb
Smithfield John Fry & William Buffum Daniel
Aldridge and Israel Saben All present

The general and corresponding Epistles from the Yearly
meetings of friends in London together with those from
Philadelphia and Newyork were read to our edification
and comfort

Our Beloved friend Nathan Hunt attended this meeting
with certificates from the monthly meeting of friends held at
Springfield North Carolina the 4th of 2mo 1804 and New Garden
Quarterly meeting held at Deep River the 10th of 3mo following
Likewise our beloved friend James Simpson attended with
Certificates from Horsham monthly meeting held 5th mo 2 1804
and Abington Quarterly meeting held the 10th of same month
Our beloved friend Jonathan Wright also attended with
certificates from the monthly meeting of friends held at-

Hopewell (Virginia) 2d. mo. 6th 1804 and Halifax Quarterly meeting held the 20th of the same month severally expressing their being ministers in good esteem. — Our beloved friend George Churchman attended at this time with a copy of a minute from the monthly meeting of friends of Nottingham held at little Britain Pennsylvania 5th mo. 9th 1804 expressive of his being an elder well esteemed likewise our beloved friends Moses Hoggoth and John M.Pherson attended the former being companion to our said friend Nathan Hunt, having a copy of a minute from New Garden Quarterly meeting and the latter being companion to our said friend Jonathan Wright with a copy of a minute from Hopewell monthly meeting all which were read in this meeting to satisfaction. —

Our Beloved friend Ann Alexander from Great Britain attended this meeting with Certificates from the monthly meeting of friends held at Woodbridge 3d mo. 1st the Quarterly meeting of Suffolk held at Ipswich 15th of same month and the Yearly meeting of ministers and elders held in London 27th of 5th mo following 1803 expressive of her being a minister in good unity and of their near concurrence and sympathy with her in her visit to this Country. — Also our beloved friend Martha Simpson attended this meeting in company with her husband James Simpson aforesaid with a Certificate from Horsham monthly meeting dated 5th mo. 2d 1804 and Abington Quarterly meeting Pennsylvania dated 10th of same month which were read in this meeting to satisfaction. —

We appoint Thomas Hoxland James Barker John Taber Paul Cogers and Wm Buffum to audit accounts with the Treasurer report the state thereof and the sum necessary to be raised the ensuing year and propose a treasurer to a future sitting

Wm Rotch jun. Wm Almy Thomas Arnold Moses Sleeper Danl Haviland Sam.l Rodman Caleb Baffum and John Hilton are appointed to prepare Essays of Epistles to the yearly meetings of London Philadelphia and New York and to such other Yearly meetings as way may open.

We appoint Cornelius Haviland John Casey Elisha Thornton Thomas Arnold Ezekiel Hoxt Moses Brown Asa Smith Isaac

Hill Jr.

Abner Coggeshall Ramsdale Jonathan Chace Wm. Rotch Jeremiah Austin Wm. Israel Haben James Nichols Sam.l Collins Paul Rogers Silas Necker John Haber Ebenezer Winslow Daniel Gove and Edward Cobb to take into consideration the general state of society and lay such matters before this meeting from time to time as may appear necessary

Adjourned to the 4.th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment

The representatives having proposed Obadiah Davis for Clerk and Ezekiah Collins Assistant which meeting on approbation they are accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

Rhode Island Quarterly meeting inform that they have concurred with Greenwich monthly meeting in the appointment of Abigail Greene to the place of an Elder. Likewise Sandwich Quarterly meeting that they have united with New Bedford monthly meeting in approving the public appearance in the ministry of Rose Russell Jun.r and with Nantucket monthly meeting in the appointment of Huldah Barney to the place of an Elder and Falmouth Quarterly meeting that they have concurred with Sidney monthly meeting in the appointment of Obed Paddock to the place of an elder

The several Quarterly meetings inform that they have directed their respective proportions of the last years stock paid to our treasurer

The Committee appointed last year relative to the subject of removing our yearly meeting made report which is accepted and is as followeth. To the Yearly Meeting

Most of the Committee appointed to visit the Quarterly Meetings of Salem and Falmouth upon a proposition from Salem relative to a more suitable place for holding the Yearly meeting. Have visited Salem and five of our members Falmouth Quarterly meeting. And although we feel a sympathy toward our brethren and sisters so remotely situated as many of them are. We are united in opinion that a removal of the meeting, is not at this time expedient

Daniel Aldridge
Moses Brown
Thomas Watson
Sam.l Rodman
Sylvester Watkins
Joseph Harris
John Bailey
James Barker
Oliver Paddock

Adjourned to the 3d hour tomorrow afternoon

3d of the week and 12th day met by adjournment

The representatives being called are all present

The Queries with answers from the several Quarterly meetings have been read and the following summary compiled therefrom

Our meetings appear to be generally attended by most friends except midweek meetings which are sorrowfully neglected by a number the hour is generally observed, some instances of sleeping in which a degree of care appears to be taken mostly clear of unbecoming behavior

Love and unity is in a good degree maintained and detraction is mostly guarded against though not without exceptions in these respects a good degree of care is taken to end differences when they appear

Many appear to be engaged to bring up those under their direction in plainness and to restrain them from reading pernicious books and the corrupt conversation of the world and to be exemplary herein while others are to remiss both in example and care

The holy Scriptures are frequently read in most families

Friends are mostly careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors and frequenting taverns and plaues of public resort though not without some exceptions in which some care is taken

a general care with respect to the poor as also in regard to marriage some instances excepted in most of which care is taken

Our testimony is generally maintained against priests wages war and military matters, and friends are mostly careful to settle their accompts perform their promises and pay their debts a few exceptions. Our testimony is maintained against slavery mostly careful in regard to records and removal certificates.—

A good degree of care is taken to deal with offenders although not always so timely as would be best judgment is placed where it appears necessary according to our discipline

The Committee to audit accompts with the treasurer Report that on attending therein find a balance in favor of this meeting of $628 58/100 and propose that $500 be raised the ensuing year the several Quarterly meetings are desired to forward it to our treasurer in the manner apportioned last year with an account to this meeting Caleb Greene is appointed treasurer of this meeting the ensuing year

The records of the meeting for Sufferings were read by which it appears that Love and unity they have attended to the business which came before under their notice in a manner which meets the approbation of this meeting ... the same friends are continued to compose a meeting for sufferings the ensuing year to proceed therein according to the former appointment and constitution of that meeting.

We adjourn to the 9th hour tomorrow morning

4th of the week and 13th day met by adjournment.

The Committee to prepare Epistles presented Essays to London Philadelphia New York Baltimore N. Carolina and Virginia which were read approved and the clerk is directed to have them transcribed and sign them on behalf of this meeting

Endorsements on the Certificates of our Beloved friends Nathan Hunt Yarnall and Martha Simpson Jonathan Wright George Churchman Moses Hoggett and John M.Pherson expressing that their company and services were acceptable. were prepared read and approved and the Clerk is directed to enter them on their certificates, and sign them on behalf of this meeting.

This meeting adjourns to the 4th hour afternoon

Afternoon met by adjournment

The Committee to take into consideration the general state of Society having considered the subject of revising the Queries have submitted to this meeting as their judgment

That the introductory recommendation usually read preceding the Queries may safely be omitted in future unless circumstances render it necessary.—

And that women friends in their meeting need not read or answer that part of the 7th Query respecting the payment of priests wages bearing of arms training or other military matters.—

And that the following be substituted for the 9th Query viz.

"Are friends careful to maintain our testimony faithfully against slavery" Which after deliberate consideration is adopted and the last alteration is directed to be inserted in all our books of Discipline

The womens meeting ~~informs~~ having presented to this a certificate on behalf of our beloved friend Ann Alexander which was read approved and the clerk is directed to sign the same. —

The Clerk is directed to extract from our minutes such of them as may be necessary to send down to our several Quarterly meetings and forward them thereto

This meeting having been favored through the several sittings hereof with the prevalence of the heavenly Fathers love our minds have been humbled under a sense thereof and having been enabled to accomplish the busi= ness that has come before us in harmony and condescen= sion under a thankful sense whereof we conclude in= tending to meet again on this Island as usual next year if the Lord permit — —

Signed on behalf of the meeting by Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 9th to the 13th of the 6th mo. inclusive 1804

To the Yearly meeting of friends in London

Dear Friends The quickening effect that hath been experienced in our large annual Assembly by the reading the Epistles from your meeting hath been renewedly confirming, that the continu= ation of our Brotherly communications, under the influence of divine love is profitable to us tending to awaken in our minds mutual desires for the preservation and advancement one of another, and we have had to believe it would meet your ac= ceptance if under this influence were we only to find it upon our minds to inform you that when thus As= sembled we have been enabled to deliberate upon the concerns of Society with harmony and concord and that love ap=

pears

appears is to be in general maintained amongst us. This indeed is a comfortable consideration at this time of weakness wherein the hands of many are ready to hang down with heaviness under the conviction that too few are so redeemed from the spirit of this world, as to be willing to give up their hearts in true obedience to the divine voice, and fully dedicate them to the service of him the Lord of heaven and earth, whose sole right it is to rule and reign over the workmanship of his holy hands, May he in his own time and way so increase the concern that hath at this season been manifested, for a more diligent attention to his inspeaking word, that the prevalence of this love may more and more redeem us from those things that continue as spots in our feasts of charity —

Since last year diverse have been added to our Society through convincement, yet we have sorrowfully to observe that many under our name by not giving heed to the manifestations of truth in their own hearts become stumbling blocks in the way of honest enquirers may such both with you and us seriously lay those things to heart; consider the importance of our standing, and by accepting the renewed offer of the Heavenly fathers love, labor more earnestly to come up in singleness of heart to serve the Lord in newness of life, whereby instead of obstructing the progress of others they may become way-marks and ensamples to the flock

We affectionately salute you and are your friends and brethren

Signed in behalf

of Yearly by direction and on behalf of said meeting

by Obadiah Davis Clerk to the

meeting this year

From our yearly meting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 9th to the 13th of 6th mo inclusive 1804

To the Yearly meting of friends in Philadelphia

6 Dear Friends Your acceptable Epistle of 4th mo 6th last has been read in this meting to our comfort and edification, as indeed every manifestation of true brotherly love cannot fail of being acceptable to those who are measurably gathered into the one true and eternal spirit the blessed excellence of which tends to leven our minds more and more into its own devine nature. — God is love and they whose spirits are sanctified and sweetened by His precious influence dwell in love and as the success of our labors for the promotion of one anothers good depends entirely upon their springing from it may we be engaged dear friends from season to season to know an increase of this blessed qualification that our labors may be successful in the Lords Vineyard and we have an evidence in the minds of those whom our concern may lead us to address, that even in exposing their failings and wantings and the deficiencies that tend to mar the innocency and wound the peace of their minds we have no other view in our endeavors but that these may be restored to them and we become mutually one anothers joy and rejoicing in the Lord. —

Reports have been received from our several Quarterly Meetings which continue to spread before us many afflicting accounts of deviation from the principles of our holy profession; but if such either with you or with us who cause this painful exercise will, contrary to repeated admonitions of divine mercy both immediately and instrumentally imparted for their good prefer the gratification of their own wills, the service of a severe and hard taskmaster, to the benign government of the prince of peace, their condemnation will be of themselves but may the exercised brethren, whilst they mourn over them continue to travel for their good, to supplicate the Father of mercies yet to lengthen out the day of their visitation, that they may yet see the things that belong to their peace before they are hid from their eyes.

May the beloved youth both with you and us gain profitable caution from others harms and from seeing the sorrowful effects of departure from the preserving principle of the blessed truth, be induced to have recourse to that as to the ark of preservation from the various wiles and stratagems of an envenomed adversary who is continually seeking through the medium of the unsubjected will and appetites to destroy the happiness of man.—

This meeting has been as large as usual and measurably crowned by divine condescension and goodness, under the influence whereof we have been enabled to deliberate upon and result the various concerns that have come before us, with brotherly love and concord.—

Signed on behalf of our said meeting Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the the 9th to the 13th of 6th mo. inclusive 1804

To the Yearly meeting of Friends of New York

Dear Friends Having through the continued favor of our heavenly father been permitted to meet in this our annual Assembly wherein your acceptable Epistle of this year, has been received and read to our comfort and ~~edification~~ satisfaction.—The forcible truths therein contained that the "unlawful love of lawful things" had too much lessened many under our profession, by having been so far indulged, as to gain a sorrowful ascendency over the mind, was impressively felt in this meeting and considering it to be one of the most delusive avenues whereby the enemy of our peace makes an inroad upon our borders in this day of general liberty and ease.—Although it may have the appearance of a repetition of your communication to us yet as a strong desire prevails in our minds that its careful effects may be arrested in its progress, and

and the feet of those who have been unwarily entangled therewith become extricated therefrom, and those who have yet escaped be preserved by a close attention to the pure principle of light and life. we believe ourselves warranted in acknowledging the importance and the necessity of our attending to the subject

Our meeting has ben as large as usual and by the accounts presented from the several Quarters although many departures from the purity of our profession appear to exist, yet we have cause to believe there are those, who prefer Jerusalem to their chiefest joy. With desires that the number of such may increase among us and you. — We remain with the salutation of love your friends and brethren. Signed in & on behalf of the meeting aforesaid by Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 9th to the 13th of 6th mo. inclusive 1804

To the Yearly meeting of friends at Baltimore

Dear Friends Having at this time while our correspondent Christs have been under notice witnessed the influence of divine love to be quickened in our hearts under the consideration that the brethren of our heavenly fathers family, however remote feel love one for another, desires have been raised in many of our hearts that the love we have reciprocally for the brethren of your yearly meeting might be demonstrated in this manner, with the information that it would be very acceptable to us to hear from you as truth shall open the way, if it should not appear best to continue our communications annually. — To hear of the prosperity of our brethren or of their particulars exercises while engaged for the promotion of the precious cause of truth, we believe will always tend to brighten the chain of friendship and strengthen the badge of true discipleship. -

We have gratefully to acknowledge the condescension of our heavenly father in favoring us through the several sittings of this our annual assembly with

his divine presence, and although we have been exercised on account of the supineness and indifference that prevails over many of our brethren in religious profession; Yet we are comforted in the belief that in every meeting there are those who feel the necessity of a renewed engagement of heart to attend to the purifying influence of the spirit of truth, graciously afforded by the holy head of the Church and a travail hath been experienced: that these may be strengthened and animated to move forward in their various allotments that so the spring of divine life may be witnessed to increase amongst us. ——

We having two friends from your yearly meeting acceptably with us affectionately salute you and are your friends and brethren. — Signed on behalf of said meeting

Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 9th to the 13th of 6th mo. inclusive 1804

To the Yearly Meeting of friends of North Carolina

Beloved Friends Having at this our Annual Assembly, in which we have had acceptably the company of two friends from your meeting experienced a nearness which excited in our minds a brotherly freedom to express the cordiality with which the proposition was attended of extending our Epistolary correspondence to you, as brethren of the same family and united by the bonds of our holy profession

Believing that an intercourse of this kind limited by the simplicity that Truth prescribes to its followers may occasionally contribute mutually to our comfort and edification —

In this introductory communication our minds being influenced by a disposition flowing from a desire

to contribute to the building up of each other in the most holy faith. and under this impression we leave you at the liberty which truth bestows. —

We have been favored during the several sittings of our yearly meeting thankfully to feel the evidence of divine love accompanying our deliberations upon the concerns of society that have come before us which have resulted in harmony. And although in reviewing the state of our different branches we have to lament the many weaknesses and deficiencies that prevail amongst us, we are comforted in the hope, that there are still preserved in all our meetings those who are engaged for the promotion of the blessed cause of truth, both in themselves and others, and desires have been raised, that the number of these may increase and all be encouraged to come up in more faithfulness and dedication of heart to the service of him who hath called us to labor in his vineyard. We affectionately salute you and are your friends & brethren

Signed on behalf of said meeting Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New-England by adjournments from the 9th to the 13th of 6th mo inclusive 1804

To the Yearly meeting of friends in Virginia

Dear Friends

Although we have not had any intercourse with you by way of epistolary correspondence yet we have felt at times the extendings of love toward you and now are engaged to address you in the same which we trust flows from the fountain of all good, desiring that grace mercy and peace may be multiplied among you may we with you labor to feel more and more of this precious love maintaining the watch against every thing that may

tend to obstruct the free circulation of it in our hearts, it is this alone that drew our forefathers to be a people and by which we must experience preservation from the temptations and besetments of an unwearied enemy who is continually seeking to lay waste the heritage, and one of his powerful temptations is that of drawing the mind to an unwarrantable attachment to the perishing things of this world, and as the snare is in vain laid in the sight of the bird may we therefore keep an eye single abiding in the light where all this crafty attempts are discovered and here shall we experience in our measure the first and great command fulfilled "thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind and also thy neighbor as thyself, here is derived the right ability for every good word & work.—

And may the beloved youth among you on whose account we feel much warmth of affection have a single eye to the great leader and captain of our souls salvation and thereby escape those vanities and follies which have been the ruin of many a precious youth O! Be not ashamed dear young people to own Christ before men nor be led to believe by the temptations of the enemy of our peace that the streams of consolation and comfort are closing up as you submit yourselves to the government of the prince of peace we are confirmed in the belief you will find it far otherwise, as you endeavor to abide under his forming hand, who hath declared that his ways are ways of pleasantness and all his paths peace the streams of divine consolation will at times most sweetly flow into your habitations, when you will be led to say, one

hour

hour O! Lord thus in thy presence is better than a thousand elsewhere and as ye are faithful to the holy witness bearing the cross you will experience agreable to his gracious promise the reward of an hundred fold in this life and in that which is to come life everlasting

We affectionately salute you and are your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf of said meting Obadiah Davis Clk

1805. The ann[ua]l Yearly meeting held in Rhode Island for New-England began and publick meetings for worship at Portsmouth and Newport on first day the 16th of 6th mo 1805 and at Newport on second day morning the 17th for Discipline

Accounts from the several Quarterly meetings being presented in which their representatives appear to be viz[t]

For Rhode Island Peter Hopie Joseph Harris Jonathan Chase Rowland Greene and Samuel Thurston —

Salem Peter Morrel Ezekiel Hoyt Samuel Collins Paul Rogers Elijah Hinton and Richard Dunn

Sandwich Samuel Rodman Abed Macy John Mosher Nathan Wood and David Kelshel

Falmouth Samuel F. Hussey William Winslow John Haber Thomas Jones and Nathan Mowry

Smithfield Elisha Thornton Richard Mowry William Buffum Abel Houghton and Israel Saben

Who being called are all present except Samuel Rodman and Israel Saben the former of whom was prevented by bodily indisposition

The annual general and corresponding Epistles from the Yearly meetings of our brethren in London with those from Philadelphia New York Baltimore and North-Carolina were read to satisfaction in this meeting —

We appoint William Rotch jun[r] William Almy Isaac Wicker Abel Houghton Thomas Arnold Laban Mitchel John Wilbur Richard Dunn William Winslow Moses Brown and Elisha Thornton to prepare essays of Epistles to the Yearly meetings of London Philadelphia New York Baltimore and North Carolina

We appoint John Haber David Buffum William Anthony William Rotch jun[r] Daniel Brayton Samuel Collins Moses Brown Asa Smith Jethro Mitchel Caleb Greene Richard Sylvester Wickes Thomas Arnold John Bailey Thomas Watson Joseph Harris and Richard Mowry To take into consideration the general state of Society and prepare to this meeting from time to time such matters as may appear to them necessary

Paul Rogers Josiah Howe Benjamin Slade Chad Smith William Cobb and John Cosher are appointed to audit accounts with the Treasurer report the state thereof and the sum necessary to be raised the ensuing year and proportion the same to each Quarterly meeting and propose a Treasurer to this meeting

Our Beloved friend William Crotch from Great Britain being on a religious visit to Friends in America attended this meeting and presented Certificates of unity with his ministry, and brotherly sympathy and concurrence with his present engagements viz. from the monthly meeting of Tivetshall in Norfolk dated 25th of 3d mo from the Quarterly meeting of Norfolk and Norwich held at Norwich the 27th of same mo and from the yearly meeting of ministers and Elders held in London by adjournments 21st and 22d of 5th mo and 1st of 6th mo following 1804 which were read to our satisfaction and his company and services are truly acceptable to us.—

Our beloved friend Richard Jordan attended this meeting with a copy of a minute from Hartford monthly meeting held 12th of 6th mo 1805 expressive of his being a minister in good esteem and their unity and concurrence with him in his concern which was read to our satisfaction and his company and services are very acceptable to us.—

Rhode Island Quarterly meeting inform that they have united with Providence monthly meeting in approving the public appearance in the ministry of William Almy. and in the appointment of Mary Anthony to the place of an Elder with Southkingston monthly meeting in the appointment of Mary Collins to the same station

Sandwich Quarterly meeting that they have united with Dartmouth monthly monthly meeting in the appointment of James Tucker to the place of an Elder And Smithfield Quarterly meeting that they have united with Bolton monthly monthly meeting in approving in the public appearance in the ministry of Abel Houghton

Salem Quarterly meeting inform that they have united with Sandwich monthly meeting in dismissing Sarah Bedee from the place of an elder the Clerk is directed to inform the Select Yearly meeting thereof

1805. Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment

The representatives having proposed Obadiah Davis for Clerk and Micajah Collins for Assistant they are appointed accordingly for the year ensuing.

The Queries have been read and Answers from the several Quarterly meetings on which some lively and pertinent remarks were made and recommended to the strict attention of friends

A Summary was compiled from the Answers, which is as followeth. —

Our meetings are generally attended by most friends yet a slackness appears in attending midweek meetings the hour is mostly observed some appearance of sleeping in which some care is taken mostly clear of other unbecoming behavior. —

Love and unity is in a good degree maintained detraction measurably guarded against in general care appears to be taken to end differences where they appear.

It appears that friends are mostly exercised in care to bring up those under their direction in plainness and restrain them from reading pernicious books and the corrupt conversation of the world and to be exemplary themselves. though a great remissness appears in some instances, in those duties, the scriptures are generally read in friends families —

Friends are mostly careful to avoid the use of spirituous liquors, and frequenting places of public resort yet not without some exceptions in which some care is taken. —

A general care in regard to the poor —

Generally careful relating to marriage though not without exceptions where care appears to have been extended

Our testimony is generally maintained against Priests wages war and military matters where it is otherwise care has been taken friends are mostly careful

to settle their accounts perform their promises and pay their debts though some deficiency appears, some care taken—

Our testimony appears to be maintained against slavery Visits useful in regard to records and removal of offices. A good degree of care is taken to deal with offenders though not always so seasonably as would be best judgment has been generally plain when it appears necessary according to discipline

We adjourn to the fourth hour tomorrow afternoon

18th day met by adjournment

The committee to audit accounts with the treasurers report find on attending them to find a balance in their hands, in favor of this meeting of $469 11/100— Our purpose that $160 be raised the ensuing year in the following manner Rhode-Island Quarterly meeting $156 Sandwich $270 Salem $84 Falmouth $36 Smithfield $60.— Caleb Green is again appointed Treasurer for the ensuing —

The records of the meeting for Sufferings were read in which we find that they have attended to the business which came before them to the satisfaction of this meeting the same friends are continued to constitute a meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year to proceed therein conformable to the former appointment and constitution of that meeting

Salem Quarterly meeting proposes to postpone attention to the time of holding their Quarterly meeting on Salem 4th day in the 11th mo at Dover 4th mo at Sandwich 5th mo & Berwick and the 10th mo at Salem on the fourth 5th day in the month at each place with which this meeting concurs and they are directed to hold them accordingly the attention to take place at the Quarterly meeting at Dover in the first month next that in the 11th mo to be suspended to that time

The Quarterly meeting of Falmouth propose that their Quarterly meeting be held in future on the fifth day before the first 6th day at Dunbarn in the 11th mo and at Windham in the 2d mo which meeting on approbation they are directed to hold them agreable thereto and the other two Quarterly meetings as heretofore viz at Falmouth in the 6th mo and at Vassalborough in the 9th mo

1805. This meeting adjourns to the 11th hour tomorrow morning

19th day Met by adjournment

The committee on general services made the following report which is adopted for a minute of this meeting "The yearly meeting of Philadelphia having expressed a concern that our discipline should be as uniform as may be and it being a desirable object to this meeting we commit the subject to the attention of the meetings for Sufferings & the correspondence with the committee of that meeting and the meetings for Sufferings in Newyork on the subjects to report the same for the consideration of our next yearly meeting"

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon

Afternoon met by adjournment

Epistles to the yearly meetings of London Philadelphia Newyork Baltimore and North Carolina with a certificate on behalf our beloved friend William Crotch were presented which were read approved and the Clerk is directed to have them transcribed and sign them on behalf of this meeting

Also an endorsement on the certificate of our beloved friend Richard Jordan was presented expressing that his company and religious services have been very acceptable to us was approved & signed by the Clerk

It appearing by the account from Salem Quarterly meeting that no answers to the Queries had been sent up from one of their monthly meetings to that meeting, and the Committee on general services informing that in the course of their investigating the subject are united in belief that the omission has proceeded from causes that require the assistance of the yearly meeting which being united with herein we appoint Moses Brown William Rotch Jun. William Almy Richard Mitchell Joseph Harris David Buffum Thomas Arnold Richard Mowry and Obadiah Davis to visit Salem Quarterly meeting and such other branches of that meeting & individuals

as they may think best and labor in the ability truth may afford to remove the difficulties that have obstructed the regular order of society and make report to our next yearly meeting ff

The Clerk is directed to extract from these minutes and send down to the several Quarterly meeting such of them as may be necessary. —

This meeting having been favored through the several sittings hereof with a degree of the heavenly Fathers love whereby we have been enabled to transact the weighty concerns of Society in a good degree of harmony and condescension under a thankful sense whereof we conclude proposing to meet again at the usual time next year on this Island if the Lord permit

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting Obadiah Davis Clk

1805 From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th of 6th mo to the 19th of the same inclusive 1805.

To the Yearly meeting of Friends held in London

Dear Friends

We have been permitted through divine mercy and condescension again to meet together in this our annual assembly for the promotion of that pure and spiritual worship which is due and which alone is acceptable unto God, for the gathering uniting and preserving the Churches here to belonging in the bonds of peace and Brotherly love. And have been in a good degree favored to witness his divine presence among us in transacting the concerns thereof preserving in a good degree of love and condescension through some close exercise and deep travail on account of the deviations omissions and other weaknesses, which on close examination appear in various parts of the Society

to the present sense thereof arouse all ranks in the Society among us to a more watchful attention to duty; to a more cheerful submission to the will of our holy head and high priest, a more ready obedience to the commands of the great captain of our salvation may the weak be strengthened the feeble minded animated and encouraged and may those farther advanced hereby witness the necessity of a more unreserved dedication of heart and of the talents committed unto them to his cause and service.—

Your visit of last year has been received and read in this meeting to good satisfaction. We sympathize with you according to our measure, in the trials which await the present day and dispensation both from without and from within. May it be the fervent engagement of all, both with us and with you, and of those in a particular manner on whom the important trust here below must soon devolve the

before youth of the purest day & serve their generation
their Love chaste and their confidence unshaken on that holy
principle of divine light and power which remains to be the
only safe abiding place under every dispensation whether of trials
by or adversity, of wanting or abounding, whether in things tem-
poral or things spiritual Thus shall we be enabled to endure the
trials and abide the storms that may be permitted to assail
us, and in the end receive a crown of neverfading joy —

Signed on behalf of our said meeting, Jediah Davis Clk
to the meeting this year

P.S. It is with satisfaction we have to inform you, that our
friend William Crotch from Great Britain is now present, and that
his company and services have been truly acceptable to us

We have agreed on the following viz.t Moses Brown of
Providence state of Rhode Island and William Rotch jun.r of Dart-
mouth state of Massachusetts as our correspondents

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhode Island, by adjournments
from the 15.th to the 19.th of the sixth month 1805 inclusive

To the yearly meeting of friends held in Philadelphia

Dear Friends — Although in this our large Annual
Assembly our minds have sufficed much depression in a feel-
ing sense of the present languid state of things amongst us, we
have nevertheless cause of thankfulness in believing that the holy
head of the Church hath not forsaken his people but hath mani-
fested his love in renewing in many minds a lively concern and
exercise for a more deep indwelling (with that power) which
can alone work deliverance to the immortal seed, from its
present state of suffering, whereby we may be favored to witness
its arising so far into dominion, as to enable us to ascribe unto
our God the praise of his own works. — May the truly merciful
Father in whom we are as strangers & pilgrims abide, make those
necessary Baptisms which can alone qualify to labor success-
fully in removing the many obstructions which impede the
journeying forward of our Israel. May it be the earnest care
of the brethren & sisters to seek after — acquaintance with the
blessed truth and that as they grow in years they may also

1805. advance in the cause of righteousness, faithfully keeping under the direction and influence of the captain of our salvation

The many favours and blessings enjoyed by us, are causes which excite and demand our grateful acknowledgements and may a sense thereof prevail on us, so to discharge in faithfulness the various services required at our hands, that we may at last receive that blessed sentence, "Well done good and faithful Servant"

The oppressed situation of very many of our fellow men of the African race continues to excite much sympathy and concern for them, and the increased cause for this concern, is a circumstance which we deeply regret, and is the source of much anxiety to us. That their oppressors see and feel before it be too late the necessity of a compliance with the injunction of doing unto others as they would be done unto. And may your perseverence in the cause of humanity receive that reward which is the never failing result of a continuance in well doing. —

Your Epistle hath been read in this meeting to our edification and the concern you therein expressed relative to a similarity of discipline cordially meets our unity in having been long our wish. That seeing we profess the same faith there should be no material variation in the order of our practice. —

Signed in and on behalf of the meeting aforesaid

Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly meeting of friends held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th to the 19th of 6th mo inclusive 1805 to the next yearly meeting of friends to be held in Newyork

Dear Friends

Among the manifold favors and privileges, which we as a religious Society enjoy we may with a degree of humble thankfulness acknowledge that we have been

permitted again to meet together in this our annual
assembly and through the several sittings thereof to trans-
act the weighty affairs which came before in brotherly love
and condescension.—

By the answers to the Queries from the
several Quarterly meetings, we have still exhibited to our view
many deviations and sorrowful deficiencies whereby the minds
of many friends have been brought under deep exercise and
travail on account of those who have thus departed from
the path of rectitude, and the necessity of our holy profession
feeling earnestly desirous that our antient Testimonies given
us to bear might be preserved inviolate, so that the language
in holy writ, might be adopted concerning the Church Beau-
tiful, for situation the joy of the whole earth is mount
sion on the sides of the north the city of the great King
God is known in her palaces for a refuge.—But we are sen-
sible that unless the Lord build the house they labour in
vain that build it; and unless the Lord keep the City the
watchman waketh but in vain.—And we have renewed
cause to believe that the way cast up for us to walk in
is the same that it was in the beginning, and that it
is through suffering that we are made perfect.—Solemnly
impressed with this important truth we feel desirous that we
may all resign ourselves under the government of the prince
of Peace of whom it is declared, "A bruised reed shall he
not break the smoaking flax shall he not quench, till judgment
is brought forth unto victory submitting that to the fire which
which is for the fire and that to the sword which is for the
sword and that to the famine which is for the famine. But
for want of this essential Purification of heart, many we fear in this
day resemble Ephraim of whom it was said "Ephraim is a cake
not turned" by which it seems the fire had but partly done
its work

And there is another class, the dearly beloved youth
whom we in a cordial and endearing manner are
engaged to address in the reaching forth of that Love that
seeks their present and future happiness.—We entreat you

dear in belovedness that ye would continue the warfare, wage war in
1805 ryghteous eye; for ye have every encouragement thereunto remember-
ing that he that is in us is greater than he that is in the
world, that an early sacrifice is most acceptable unto him, who
sayeth, my son give me thine heart.— It is indeed of the ut-
most consequence now in the early part of your life to pursue
those things that make for peace, many are the snares that the
enemy has laid to entrap the feet of your minds many are
his unkind wiles that he is working forth to entice and draw
one off from following after divine rich es.

We remark with satisfaction the continuation of your
sympathy and care for the Indian natives believing that a
blessing will crown your labours

We received your acceptable Epistle of this year which was
read in this meeting to our satisfaction, and in a renewed
sense of Brotherly love we remain your friends and brethren
Signed by direction and on behalf of this meeting
by Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New-
England by adjournments from the 15th to the 19th of 6th mo inclusive
1805 To the Yearly meeting of Friends at Baltimore

Dear Friends

It has been very acceptable to us to receive your
Brotherly communication of last year which has been read
to our satisfaction and encouragement in observing several im-
portant objects that have engaged your attention, and that in
resolving them you have been favored with divine assistance, a
precious crown of our assemblies.— Great is the encouragement
to perseverance in the way of religious duty from the certainty
that God is good and that he is always ready to lend his aid to
assist the workmanship of his holy hand, whenever they can
be brought with true faith and confidence to place their depen-
dence upon him seeking unto him day by day for a renewal
of that strength whereby an advancement can only be made
in the standard of truth exalted in the Earth.—

It is cause of thankfulness that your exercise and labor for the improvement of the condition of the indian natives has been attended with success, and we crave that every engagement in that laborious undertaking under the influence of heavenly direction may prosper in your hands

Although your recent engagement for the amelioration of the condition of the afflicted African race has not been attended with the desired success; yet seeing it is the cause of righteousness and that the concern has been heretofore greatly blessed there is cause to believe that a perseverence therein under right direction will eventually prosper and procure relief to that greatly injured people. — We feel engaged to encourage your holding on your way in this good work, believing it will prove a blessing both to you and them

The extermination of slavery is progressing amongst us, there being but few in that situation and for many years none of them have been born slaves amongst us. — Signed in and on behalf of said meeting

Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th of 6th mo to the 19th of the same inclusive 1805

To the yearly meeting of Friends at North Carolina

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle of last year has been received and read to satisfaction. This meeting has been as large as usual, and been favoured to conduct the business which has come before it, in brotherly love and harmony, the consideration of which has sensibly affected our minds, for in addition to the manifold mercies, which we are continually receiving, from the hands of a bountiful Creator to be graciously preserved in a disposition of mind which evidences our discipleship is cause of thankfulness, and with you we believe is right to be gratifully commemorated. —

2 mo
1805

To hear that the distressed state of the Africans has claimed your solid consideration is very pleasant to this meeting though no way appears to have opened to address your legislator on their behalf, we hope you will be encouraged, notwithstanding the many discouragements, that may oppose it, and we wish to include ourselves with you, to discharge that religious duty, which we owe both to that much injured people, and to their oppressors, that having endeavored to do what may be incumbent on us to do, though success may not always attend our endeavors we may be favored to wash our hands in innocency and admitted acceptably to approach the divine Altar

There cannot be any doubt dear Friends but that if our epistolary correspondence is carried on as you suggest in the life of truth, that it will tend to mutual edification, for such is the nature and efficacy of this heavenly principle, which we have been taught to believe in, that whatever is done in it cannot fail to edify those who are rightly disposed — Let us therefore congratulate ourselves in having in measure obtained this precious faith and endeavor to stir one another up to a diligent application of soul to know more and more of its saving efficacy then we shall be as Epistles written in one anothers hearts and instrumentally the cause of each others joy and rejoicing

The state of our society in some instances gives renewed occasion to see and believe that there is no safety but as the mind becomes disciplined to the government of the truth, that the unwearied adversary of all good, can apply his wiles successfully to deceive wherever the unsubjected will of the creature has the predominancy that he can still transform himself into the appearance of an angel of light and even under the mask of zeal, for the cause of righteousness, separate the soul from the meekness and simplicity of the Lamb and introduce into it darkness and discord. But thanks be to God who giveth ability to detect the workings of this

deceitful worker and to hold up to view the way by which
a deliverance from his snares may be experienced. — We may
however with satisfaction acknowledge that there is reason to
believe that the cause of truth is gaining grounds, that there are
many who are desirous above every other consideration, to be
yielding a conformity of heart to the discoveries of the divine
will which still remains to be our sanctification and redemption
May these both with you and with us, labor to keep close to
this precious renovating influence that so a deliverance from all
evil may be known and a gracious admittance administered into that kingdom which consists in righteousness and
peace and joy in the holy Ghost

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by
Obadiah Davis Clerk

at our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England began with public meetings for worship both at Portsmouth and Newport on first day the 15th of 5th mo 1806 and at Newport on second day morning the 16th for Church discipline

Received accounts from the several Quarterly meetings here to belong ing, the representatives therein appointed are

For Rhode Island Sylvester Wickes Thomas Arnold Benjamin Buffinton Benjamin Freeborn and John Wilbour —

Item Paul Rogers Caleb Bussum Ezekiel Hoyt Benjamin Dow and Daniel Gove —

Sandwich John Bailey Joseph Tucker Prince Wing William Macy William Rotch Junr and Obadiah Davis —

Falmouth Ebenezer Winslow John Horton John Winslow and John Tabor

Smithfield Josiah Shove Chad Smith Jonathan Fry and Asa Potter —

All present

Israel Sabin informed this meeting that through bodily indisposition he was prevented from attending the yearly meeting last year

The general and corresponding Epistles from the yearly meetings in London together with Epistles from the yearly meetings of Friends held in Philadelphia New York Baltimore and Virginia were received and read in this meeting to our edification and comfort William Rotch junr William Almy Sylvester Weekes Richard Dame Thomas Arnold Peter Hoxie John Tabor Caleb Gifford of Bedford and William Dean

are appointed to prepare Essays to the aforesaid yearly meetings

Our Beloved Friend Isaac Bonsall attended this meeting with a copy of a minute from the monthly meeting of Friends held at Auchland in Chester County Pennsylvania the 8th of 5 mo 1806 expressive of his being a minister in good esteem and of their uniting with him in a visit to this yearly meeting which was read to satisfaction and his company and religious services were very acceptable to us —

Our Beloved Friends Enoch Dorland and Daniel Quinby attended this meeting with Certificates the former from the monthly meeting held at Coweso Dutchess County and state of Newyork the 16th of 4th mo last and a concurring certificate from Ninepartners Quarterly meeting held 9th of 5 mo last and the latter from Creek monthly meeting held at Ninepartners in said Dutchess County the 18th of said last 4th mo and a concurring certificate from Stanford Quarterly meeting in said Dutchess County 9th of 5th mo 1806 expressive of their being ministers in good esteem and their unity with them in their concern in a visit to these parts whose company and religious services have been very acceptable — Our Beloved Friend William Mitchell and Isaac Doty also attended the former as companion to our said Friend Enoch Dorland with a copy of a minute from Ninepartners monthly meeting held 17th of 4 mo last and the latter came to accompany our Friends Naomi Halsted and Lydia Arnold with a copy of a minute from Creek monthly meeting held at said Ninepartners 16th of 5th mo 1806 expressive of their concurring Elders in good esteem and their concurrance in accompanying our said friends whose company and services have been acceptable to us

Also our friend Mark Coffin attended as companion to our said Friend Daniel Quinby with a copy of a minuit from said Ninepartners monthly meeting held 16th of 5th mo last expressive of his being a member in good esteem and their unity with him in accompanying our said Friend whose company has been acceptable to us ——

Adjourned to the 3rd hour this afternoon

Afternoon met by adjournment

The representatives have proposed Obadiah Davis for Clerk and Micajah Collins assistant which is approved of, they are accordingly appointed for the ensuing year —

Salem Quarterly meeting informed that they have united with Dover monthly meeting in the appointment of Abigail Dame to the place of an Elder — Smithfield Quarterly meeting that they have united with Smithfield monthly meeting in the appointment of Jesse Batty and Elizabeth Smith to the place of Elders one with Pool'on monthly meeting in

in appointing Sarah Houghton to the same station; Falmouth month
ly meeting that they have united with Vassalborough monthly meeting in
the appointment of Ezekiel Farrow to the place of an elder with Sidney
monthly meeting in appointing Dorothy Wing to that station and with
Durham monthly meeting in approving in the public appearance of
the ministry of Thomas Jones — The Clerk is appointed to inform the
select yearly meeting here of —

The several Quarterly meetings inform that they have directed their
proportions of this meetings stock paid to our treasurer Ebenezer
Winslow Enoch Hoag jun. Thomas Rowland Paul Rogers Obadiah
Brown & Isaac Smith and William Macy are appointed to audit
accounts with the Treasurer and report the state thereof and the sum
necessary to be raised the ensuing year and proportion the same to
the several Quarterly meetings and propose a Treasurer ——

The Queries have been read and Answers from the several Quar-
terly meetings Many minds were deeply humbled under a consideration
of the many painful deficiencies still apparent among us and many
weighty and suitable remarks were made, and a travel experienced that
we be individually engaged to remove those sorrowful departures still
remaining within our borders Moses Brown William Rotch jun.
Rowland Green James Barker John Baily Obadiah Williams
Joseph Philbrick and Obadiah Davis are appointed to make out
a summary and as way may open prepare a communication to send
down to our several Quarterly meetings ——

We appoint Daniel Anthony William Rotch David Buffum John
Cary Jethro Mitchel Daniel Gove, Samuel Collins Sylvester Weekes
Clark Rodman Richard Mitchel William Almy Benjaman Freeborn
Joseph Collins Daniel Brayton Josiah Shove Thomas Holder Israel
Saben and Richard Mory to take into consideration the general
state of society & propose to this meeting from time to time such
matters as may appear to them necessary ——

Adjourned to the 4th hour tomorrow afternoon

10th Met by adjournment

The representatives being called are all present

Our beloved Friends Naomi Halsted and Lydia Arnold attended this meet
ing with certificates of unity, the former from Creek monthly meeting held
at Nine partners 18th of 4th mo last, and the latter from Hartford monthly
meeting in Connecticut held 7th of 10th mo last, and a certificate of concurrence from
Nine partners Quarterly meeting held the 6th of 2d mo last also our beloved
Friend Hannah Fisher attended with a Copy of a minute of concurrence
from Philadelphia monthly meeting held in the southern district held the 30th
of 4th mo last all which were read in this meeting to satisfaction

The Committee on general service made the following proposal
for an alteration in our Dis-cipline — Agreed for initiating convinced
persons into membership with us That they appear at a preparative
meeting when circumstances will admit of it; and request to come under
the care of friends and if the preparative meeting approve the same;
that they acquaint the monthly meeting thereof; to be substituted instead
of the forepart of the minuit of 1766 page 21st reading with the words to be
taken under their care — They further propose that the following min
ute be substituted instead of the minuit of 1772 page 6th

It is our sense and judgment that it is improper for brothers chil
dren sisters children half Brothers children or half sisters children
to marry together or any nearer than a first cousens child, and if notwith
standing shall proceed to marry nearer than a first cousens child
being previously cautioned and advised against it, that the monthly
meeting where such belong give forth a Public testimony against
them and not to receive such into unity again untill such meetings
are well assured that they have found a place of sincere repentance
and are received in the truth which after solid consideration is with the pre
ceding proposal united with and they are directed to be inserted in all
our books of discipline the former under head convinced persons and the
latter under head marriage ——

The committee to audit accounts with the treasurer report, that on
attending there to find a balance in his hands of $463 48/100 and propose
that $700 be raised the ensuing year and the several Quarterly meetings
are desired to forward it, in the following manner, Rhode Islan

Rhode Island $ 180 —
Salem — 95
Sandwich — 315
Falmouth — 40
Smithfield — 70
$ 700

Caleb Green of Providence is appointed treasurer for the ensuing year. The records of the meeting for Sufferings were read and it appearing that they have attended to the varied subjects which came before them to the satisfaction of this meeting
The same friends are continued to constitute a meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year to proceed therein agreeable to the former appointment and constitution of that meeting.

We adjourn to the tenth hour tomorrow morning

18th day Met by adjournment
It is concluded that Rhode Island Quarter have liberty to alter the times of holding their Quarterly meeting and at such places as they may agree upon for the ensuing year and that they make report of their conclution for this meetings further direction next year

It is concluded that appeals to the yearly meeting be entered and acted upon on the 3 day of the week, and the further consideration of appeals as is proposed by the committee on general services is referred to the consideration of next yearly meeting

A Summary of the Answers to the Queries was presented which is as followeth —

By accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings, it appears that our meetings for worship and discipline have been generally attended by the greater part of friends tho' a remissness appears in some, particularly in regard to mid weeks meetings, mostly clear of unbecoming behavior therein, except some instances of sleeping. Love and unity in a good degree subsist among us; detraction is

generally guarded against, tho' not without exceptions; and when differences appear care is generally taken to end them. Many friends it appears, are careful in the education of those under their direction, whilst many others neglect their duty in this important concern. The Holy Scriptures are read in most families. Friends are careful with some exceptions, to avoid the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors and are generally careful to observe moderation and temperance at births, marriages and burials. Some instances of attending places of publick resort have come to our knowledge. The circumstances of the poor are inspected, and their necessities relieved. —

It dose not appear that any children are placed out from among friends

Generally careful to observe our order concerning marriages; as also our testimony concerning priests wages, and war, except a few instances of attending at trainings. Mostly careful to inspect and settle accounts, to perform promises, to pay just debts, and not to launch into business beyond ability to manage in the truth, tho there are some deficiencies in those accounts. No misapplications of public gifts. Our testimony is maintained against Slavery. Records and certificates generally attended to. A good degree of care is taken to deal with offenders, and to place judgment where that appears necessary. Some delays are manifest. In the above numerous and sorrowful deficiencies, some care has been extended. — Adjourned to 3d hour this afternoon

Afternoon met by adjournment

The committee appointed at our last yearly meeting to visit Salem Quarterly meeting made report, which after solid and weighty consideration is accepted and is directed to be sent down to Salem Quarterly meeting to the monthly meeting alluded to in the report, and we feel it incumbent upon us at this time affectionately to enjoin a particular attention to the advice contained in the latter part of that report, said report is as followeth. —

The Committee appointed last year to visit Salem Quarterly meeting, having most of them attended that meeting in the 9th month last and had a particular opportunity with Committee of the Quarterly meeting and Friends then present of the Monthly meeting were their present difficulties seemed more particularly to have originated, and labour according to the ability afforded for the reconciliation and restoration

[illegible] of love and harmony among them. At which time a hope was entertained by us, that the happy effects would in a good measure have been realized. — But we have since learned, that some unpleasant occurrences have taken place, which have tended to revive and increase the difficulties among Friends in that quarter; and to which we have found it our place to give our serious attention since the commencement of this meeting, in several interviews with Friends of that Quarterly and Monthly meeting, with whom we have had deeply to sympathize under their present trying and afflicting exercise and dispensation and have afforded such council and advice as we found our selves furnished with. —

We apprehend it our duty further to state to the Yearly Meeting, as our sense and judgment after the most careful and weighty attention which we have been enabled to give to the subject; that there is a spirit or disposition prevalent with some members of our Society in that Quarter to lay waste good order and the discipline of the Church — that among those in that monthly meeting who appear to be well concerned for the support of good order and discipline we fear there are some who in some cases have acted with a degree of zeal not sufficiently accompanied with that wisdom which is profitable to direct and enables to labour successfully in the Church; that in dealing with and passing judgment upon transgressors, some unfaithfulness has been manifested by the monthly meeting; that on examination of such judgments by the Quarterly meeting upon appeal, greater severity and exactness have in some cases been exercised than what might have been found consonant with the truth, and the spirit of our discipline; and thus through unwatchfulness, and a want of that deep inward dwelling wherein all selfishness and unrighteousness, both temporal and spiritual, is judged and kept down, transgressors have been permitted to triumph, and a door of jealousy and uneasiness opened among Friends, to their sore wounding and affliction. That in the present difficulty we see nothing further at present, we can do, unless it be to submit to the consideration of the Yearly meeting, whether they can at this time feel their way to recommend, if not to enjoin, upon all the members of that Quarterly and monthly meeting who feel themselves engaged for the support of the cause of truth, and the maintenance of our Christian discipline; that is they lay aside all recrimination for the

the past, and endeavour to unite in future with one heart and one mind, in support of His cause, whom we all profess to serve and obey.

Moses Brown
David Buffum
Joseph Harris
Richard Mowry
Thomas Arnold
Richard Mitchell
William Robertson Jun.
William Almy
Obadiah Brown

Essays of epistles to our brethren of the yearly meetings of London Philadelphia New york Baltimore and Virginia were presented approved and the Clerk is directed to transcribe and sign them on behalf of this meeting

A certificate on behalf of our Beloved Friend William Crotch was approved and is directed to be signed by the Clerk —

Endorsements were prepared on the Certificates of our beloved friends Isaac Bonsall Enoch Dorland and Daniel Quinby expressing that their company and religious services were acceptable — Likewise endorsements on the certificates of our Friends William Mitchel Isaac Doty and Mark Coffin expressing that their company was acceptable to us all which were approved and the Clerk is directed to sign them —

Smithfield Quarterly meeting propose the following line of division between Rhode Island Quarterly meeting and them viz: Beginning at the southwest corner of Gloucester and to run west into Connecticut and North Eastward to Stephen Thurstin's house by the road, thence easterly to Benjamin Medbury's in Smithfield house thence to Daniel Mowry's the town Clerk of Smithfield thence easterly to the road 20 rods south of John Allen's thence easterly to Augustus

Lapham formerly Gully's house thence easterly to Whipple Lovett's house thence to the north part of Diamond hill in Cumberland thence to the north east corner of Cumberland thence southeasterly to the precinct meeting house in Attleborough thence easterly to Kimball's house in Easton and so on to the line of Sandwich Quarter all to the South belong to Rhode Island Quarter and Northward to Smithfield Quarter. And it is to be understood that friends living near the line have liberty to chose the meeting he is most conveniently situated to attend, or that he chooses to belong to provided it be agreeable to the adjacent monthly meeting, which is approved of by this meeting.

The Clerk is directed to extract such minutes as may be necessary and send down to the several Quarterly meetings —

Having been mercifully favoured with the overshadowings of our Heavenly Father's love this the several sittings of this our yearly Meeting by which we have been enabled to result the weighty concerns of society which have come before us in much harmony and condescension under a humble thankful sense whereof we conclude proposing by divine permission to meet again at the usual time next year on this Island.

Signed in and on behalf of said meeting by

Obadiah Davis Clerk

1866 254

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England
from the 15th of 6 mo to the 18th of the same inclusive 1866
To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends

Having felt our minds renewedly quickened at the reading of your affectionate Epistle of last year, we are encouraged to believe that so long as we continue our communications of this kind with a single eye to the promotion of Brotherly love in the Church, we shall be favoured to witness at this time the renewal of our fellowship in the Gospel.

During our deliberations upon the important concerns of the Society we have been brought into exercise on account of the lukewarmness and indifference that prevail over many of our fellow professors, whose conduct convinces that they have not entered "Jerusalem to their chiefest joy" yet having been made sensible that the Canopy of divine love has been extended to us in a good degree through our several sittings, it has been an instructive season and we have witnessed a comfortable hope that there are still preserved amongst us, those who are often engaged for the welfare of Zion, dedicated in heart to the obedience of manifested duty, may the number of such both with you & us be increased, and encouraged to look with holy confidence unto him, who hath promised to be with his faithful followers These thus assisted will be enabled to labour successfully in the Church.

Our Meeting has been large and our deliberations attended with much unanimity & harmony, And a travail hath been witnessed, that our members may experience a more deep indwelling, centering to, and waiting upon the divine gift in subjection to the Cross of Christ, as the only way of counteracting the Spirit of the world, and a conformity to the false maxims & vain fasions thereof.

We have the satisfaction of the Company of divers, who have become members of our Religious Society by convincement since last year.

Signed on behalf and by direction of said Meeting

by Obadiah Davis
Clerk this year

1806

.... our yearly meeting held in Rhode Island by adjournment from the 15th of 6th mo to the 18 of the same 1806 inclusive

To the yearly meeting of Friends held in Philadelphia

Dear friends Having received your acceptable & title I is been read in this meeting, and our minds have been comforted at this time in the evidence we have received from several parts of our extensive Society of the continuation of brotherly affection and Christian fellowship, this no doubt will continue to be the case, so long as we are engaged to attend singly to our respective callings, seeking unto that divine power which unites all its members into one body of which Christ Jesus is the Holy Head ....

Altho' our deliberations have been attended with some exercise, we have to acknowledge Divine regard has been extended, and much unanimity has prevailed in our conclusions and a concern hath been raised in many minds that we may experience a more steady attention to the inspeaking word, knowing our own wills subjected to that power which alone can qualify for that labour in the Church, which As we feel ourselves manifest is wanting in a strong Hand to right order amongst us

We have had during our several sittings the company of many of the beloved youth, whose quiet sitting and solid deportment has been comfortable to us, and a hope is revived that some of these having set their faces Zion ward, will be favoured to hold on their way, and become so dignified with true humility and the reverent fear of the Lord as to prove way marks and incentives to others to follow them as they follow Christ ....

We are glad to find you have been enabled to complete the revisal of your Discipline and hope in due time to receive the copy you propose to send us.

Not feeling much to say at this time we affectionately salute you and are your friends and brethren —

Signed in an on behalf of said meeting by Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our yearly meeting held in Rhode Island for New England from the 15th of 6th mo to the 18th of the same inclusive 180

To the yearly meeting of friends at New-York

Dear Friends

We have been favoured to meet again in the our Annual Assembly and to deliberate on the various weighty affairs which have come before us in much Brotherly love and harmony.

Various deficiencies appear among us and our minds have been a fresh engaged in fervent labour for the removal of them. many indeed are the dangers to which we are exposed and ofttimes are we ready to be discouraged but the unobjected will of man is the medium through which he can effect his purposes, therefore may we be wise and fervently labour to have our will more and more subjected to him whose will concerning us, is our sanctification and redemption —

Your acceptable Epistle has been received and read in this meeting to our satisfaction. It was pleasant to find that your minds have also been exercised under the renewed influence of Divine Love for the prosperity of Zion, and for the enlargement of her borders that your labours and ours may be blessed by the great master of our assemblies and made instrumental for the promotion of his righteous cause is our desire

This meeting has been favoured large and memorably owned by the calming influence of truth under a thankful sense where of we affectionately salute you and bid you farewell —

Signed in an on behalf of said meeting by Obadiah Davis

[illegible] yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England
from the 15th of 6th mo. to the 18 of the same inclusive 1806 —

To the Yearly meeting of friends at Baltimore —

Dear friends

It has been very acceptable to us to receive your bro-
-therly communication of last year, which has been read to our satisfaction and encouragement, in observing several important objects that have engaged your attention, and that in resulting them, you have been favoured with divine assistance the precious crown of our Assemblies: Great is the encouragement to a per-
-severance in the way of religious duty from the certainty that God is good; and that he is always ready to lend his aid to assist the [illegible] of his holy hand; when ever they can be brought with true faith and confidence to place their dependence upon him seeking unto him day by day for a renewal of that strength whereby an advancement can only be made, and the standard of Truth exalted in the Earth.

It is cause of thankfulness that your exercise and labour for the improvement of the condition of the Indians has been attended with success, and we crave that every engagement in that laborious undertaking under the influ-
-ence of heavenly direction may prosper in your hands.

Altho' your recent engagement for the amelioration of the condition of the afflicted African race, has not been attended with the desired success. Yet seeing it is the cause of right-
-eousness, and that the concern has been heretofore greatly blessed, there is cause to believe that a perseverance therein under right direction will eventually prosper and procure relief to that greatly injured people — We feel engaged to encourage your holding on your way in this good work, believing it will prove a blessing both to you and them:—

The extermination of Slavery is progressing amongst us, there being but few in that situation and for many years none

of them have been born slaves amongst us —.

Signed in an on behalf of said meeting by Obadiah Davis Clk

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New Eng
=land from the 15th of 6th mo to the 18th of the same inclusive 1806.

To the yearly meeting of Friends at Virginia —

Dear Friends

Being again assembled in our Annual meeting, we have received your brotherly Epistle of 6th mo last the reading of which ex=
=cite our sympathy, and concern that in your varied allotments and deep trials, you may be favoured to experience the Shepherd of Israel to be near to help and support you in maintaining the precious Testimonies for the Truth given us to bear; persuaded we are that in every strait and difficulty there is no safety but in our abiding truly humble and dependent children, for such he will assuredly arise in due time scatter their enemies, and establish their feet upon the rock and enable them to hold up a righteous standard to the Nation

Altho' in opening and deliberating upon the state of society with us, we have had cause of regret, that some are departing from the straith and narrow way. Yet the divine hand hath been near affording a comfortable hope, that there are many still engaged to preserve the law and the Testimony, may those thus concerned both with you and us, be ever mindful of their calling, & diligent in bringing forward in spirit serving the Lord," thus will they be enabled to wage war in right=
=eousness, puting to flight the armies of the aliens who are exerted oppos=
=ing the pure life, and bringing into thraldom those who are unwilling to submit to the Cross of Christ —

We feel solicitious for the youth both with us and you, and are encouraged in observing many among us who appear to be submitting to the operation of that which if abode in will qualify for usefulness in the cause of truth that those of that age in our society may be preserved and their number increased, is our sincere desire.

Signed in an on behalf of said meeting by Obadiah Davis Clerk

2 C
1806

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for Rhode Island by adjournments from the 15th to the 18th of 6th mo inclusive 1806

To the several Quarterly meetings thereto belonging

Dear Friends Having felt our minds dipped into the state of the Society at this time, and observing through the accounts from the several Quarters that the law and testimonies of our holy profession are in many instances deviated from, we are afresh concerned, under the gracious influence, we humbly trust of the master of our assemblies, to call to faithfulness in those important things: that the complaint in our inclosure, respecting those pernicious deviations may be done away, and that Zion may be cloathed with the garments of Righteousness and truth. Since this is Dear Friends, the design of the holy head of the Church, and since true we are brought into many brethren, who are called and devoted to this blessed cause, who have forsaken all to follow him, and to labor for the spreading of righteousness and peace on the Earth how can any of us be so far negligent, as to stand as obstacles to this blessed work. We are desirous that the exercise and deep travail of spirit, witnessed at this season on account of those deviations may be remembered, and that all may be encouraged to come up in faithfulness in bearing our testimonies, particularly, that of our attending midweek meetings. If we can Dear Friends dispense with this, no wonder there are other grievous departures such as the improper use of spirituous Liquors, a departure from plainness, and launching into business beyond our abilities to manage suitably. - Circumstances which are painful to the sincere hearted among us and deeply reproachful to us as a religious body. - Therefore may all renewedly take courage, and immediately labor to comply with this important injunction Let him that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. And may the sincere dependants ones wheresoever their lot may be cast, be encouraged to hold on their way and faithfully discharge their duty, may they labor in meekness and with effect. And beloved youth we earnestly call your attention to these things, and solicit your labor, in removing the offences which are before us, that our holy profession may be transmitted to the succeeding generation in its antient purity, and the glory of our heavenly father thereby be magnified. We are at this time concerned to exhort you to watch diligently over the flock deal in due Time and in a spirit of Christian love and tenderness with all such as walk disorderly

disorderly amongst you, in order to reclaim and restore them, by brotherly counsel and admonition, and we tenderly advise all those on whom this important duty devolves to labour to have their own minds rightly and subjected to the divine influence in all their movements that they may feel nothing towards the delinquents but pure love for their immortal souls, which can only crave their conviencement of their error, subjection to the cross of Christ and restoration to the unity of the Church. And we have faith to believe that where this is your care, your labors will be often attended with a gathering effect and prove a blessing to the individual. — On the contrary we have seen, we [illegible] from superficial labor, and attempting it while the mind is unprepared with any thing like indifference to a brothers being reclaimed and hastily entering into a business of this [illegible] And we also tenderly caution all, not to suffer any influence from connection or relationships to obstruct the proper exercise of the discipline. — All souls are mine saith the most high, and seeing the cause we profess to be engaged in, is also his, when we are in a proper state of mind, we shall feel the same love and solicitude for our neighbor as for ourselves, and dear Friends, where we are favored with this experience which we ought to persevere in laboring for, we shall be concerned to instruct the tender minds of the dear children under our care with the necessity of early yielding obedience to the motitions of Truth whereby they will be brought into a near acquaintance with the divine operations of this refined principle, by which we have grounds to hope they would be much more preserved from the vanities and follies that at the present day so much prevail in the world. Signed on behalf of the meeting Eliakim Davis Clerk

1807. At our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New-England, began with public meetings for worship both at Portsmouth & Newport on first day the 14th of the 6th Mo. 1807, and at Newport on Second day morning the 15th for discipline

Received accounts from all the quarterly meetings hereto belonging, the representatives therein appointed are as follows viz For Rhode Island Daniel Anthony Dan.l Brayton Richard Mitchell Sylvester Wickes & Wm. Peckham

Salem Paul Rogers Samuel Collins Moses Beede Daniel Gove and Ezekiel Hoyt

Sandwich Samuel Rodman, James Tucker Peleg Mitchel and Daniel Bowerman

Falmouth Thomas Jones, Nathan Winslow and John Winslow

Smithfield Josiah Shove William Buffum, Israel Sabin & Chad Smith

All present, except Samuel Rodman, for whose absence a satisfactory reason was given

The general & corresponding Epistles, from our brethren at the yearly meeting in London, last year, together with those from the yearly meeting of Philadelphia, New-York & Virginia for the present year, were received & read in this meeting to our edification

We appoint Daniel Howland, William Rotch Junr. William Almy, William Dean, Thomas Arnold, Obadiah Brown, John Wilber, John Osborn & Elisha Thornton to prepare Essays to the aforesaid yearly meetings and to such others as way may open — and David Mitchell, Moses Tarnum, Jonathan Congdon, William Jenkins, Jonathan Dennis, Caleb Buffum, Walter Allen, Moses Dame

Da

David Smith, Samuel Mitchell and James Tucker are appointed to make out a sufficient number of copies of those Epistles received, for all our quarterly meetings—

Rhode Island quarterly meeting informs that they have united with Swanzey monthly meeting in approving the public appearance, in the ministry, of Daniel Brayton, and the appointment of David Earl to the place of an elder — and with South Kingston monthly meeting in approving the public appearance, in the ministry, of Peter Hoxie — Salem quarterly meeting that they have united with Weare monthly meeting in the appointment of Lydia Page to the place of an Elder — Sandwich quarterly meeting that have united with Nantucket monthly meeting, in approving the public appearance in the ministry of Benjamin Mitchell — and in the appointment of Samuel Macy to the place of an Elder — Falmouth quarterly meeting that they have united with Falmouth monthly meeting in dismissing John Taber from the place of an Elder — and with Vassalborough monthly meeting in dismissing Jacob Taber from the same station — and also in dismissing Remington Hobby from the Select meeting — Smithfield quarterly meeting that they have united with Richmond monthly meeting in the appointment of Reubin Randal to the place of an Elder — Obadiah Davis is appointed to inform the Select yearly meeting thereof —

Our beloved friend William Flanner attended this meeting with Certificates from New Garden monthly meeting in North-Carolina dated 2nd Mo. 28. 1807, and from said New-Garden quarterly meting Guilford County, dated 14th of 3rd Mo. following — Also our beloved friend Richard Jordan with a certificate from Hartford monthly meeting dated 14th Mo. 8th 1807 —

Also

1807. Also our beloved friend Richard Mott with a certificate from Purchase monthly meeting, State of New-York dated 5 Mo. 14. 1807. ——

Also our beloved friend Mathew Franklin with a certificate from New-York monthly meeting dated 6 Mo. 3. 1807 — their company and religious services have been very acceptable to us. ——

Also our esteemed friend Stephen Gardner and John Haines the former as companion to our said friend William Flanner, with a certificate from New-Garden quarterly meeting dated 3 Mo. 14. 1807 and the latter accompanied our friend Sarah Pope & Mercy Shriere with a certificate from the monthly meeting of upper Evesham in New-Jersey dated 3 Mo. 7, 1807, whose company were acceptable to us ——

The several quarterly meetings inform that they have directed their proportion of this meetings Stock paid to our Treasurers — William Buffum, Joseph Buffington, Thomas Jones, Paul Rogers, Joseph Harris are appointed to Audit accounts with the Treasurer, report the State thereof and the Sums necessary to be raised the ensuing year and propose a Treasurer ——

Rhode Island quarterly meeting propose that their quarters be held in future on the first fifth day in the 8th Month at Portsmouth, 11th Mo. at Somerset — 2nd Mo. at Providence and 5th Month at East-Greenwich, which is united with, and they are directed to hold them accordingly And in order that the times of holding Smithfield quarter do not interfere with the times now fixed on for Rhode Island quarter; that quarter is left at liberty to hold their quarterly meeting at such times & places the ensuing year as may appear best and make report to this meeting next year —

David Buffum, Daniel Anthony, William Rotch
Joseph Austin, Sylvester Wickes, Moses Brown, Jonathan
Chase, Jethro Mitchell, Joseph Harris, Paul Rogers, Mathew
Purington, Thomas Watson, Laban Mitchell & Ezekiel Hoyt
are appointed to take into consideration the general State
of Society, and in particular, the Case refered from last year
concerning Appeals and report to this meeting such
matters as they may judge necessary to require the
attention thereof

This meeting adjourns to the fourth hour this
afternoon

Afternoon, met by adjournment

The representatives have proposed Obadiah Davis
for Clerk and Obadiah Brown Assistant, which is approved
and they are appointed for those services for the ensuing year

The committee to audit accounts with the Treasurer
report that they find a balance in his hands in favour
of this Meeting of Two hundred & forty dollars & 29/100 and
propose the Sum of eight hundred dollars to be raised the
ensuing year, which is to be proportioned in the manner it
was last year viz.

Rhode Island	205 dollars
Salem	109 "
Sandwich	360
Falmouth	46
Smithfield	80
	800

Caleb Greene is appointed Treasurer
for the ensuing year

The

The Queries have been read and Answers from all the quarterly meetings, many solid and pertinent remarks were made an account of the painful deficiencies still apparant and recommended to the strict attention of friends a Summary of the Answers as followeth ——

1. By the answers to the queries from the several quarterly meetings it appears, that our meetings, both for worship and discipline, have been generally attended by most friends, though there is a sorrowful neglect in some, particularly in the attendance of mid-week meetings, some instances of sleepiness; mostly clear of other unbecoming behaviour ——

2. Love and unity is in a good degree maintained, detraction is mostly guarded against; care is generally taken to end differences when they appear —

3. Many friends it appears are concerned to bring up those under their care in plainness, to restrain them from pernicious books & corrupting conversation and to example well themselves, while others are too inattentive to this important trust —

The Scriptures are read in most families ——

Most friends are careful in regard to the use of spirituous Liquors, frequenting taverns and places of public resort though not without some exceptions in each part —

Moderation and temperance is observed at births, Marriages & Burials — The necessities of the poor appear to be attended to ——

4. Mostly careful to observe our order in respect to Marriages and to preserve our testimony on account of military matters though not without some exceptions in both parts —

5. There appears to be some neglect in timely settling accounts and paying just debts (a few instances of improperly launching into business) no misapplication of public gifts —

Our

Our testimony is maintained against Slavery — Our records are mostly attended to — a good degree of care is taken to deal with offenders and to place judgment where it appears necessary according to discipline, though not always without improper delays — In the above sorrowful deficiency some care it appears has been taken —

Our beloved friend Sarah Talbot attended this Meeting with a Certificate from the monthly meeting of Concord in Delaware county Pennsylvania, dated 5 Mo. 6. 1807, and from the quarterly meeting of Concord dated 12th of said 5th Month; likewise our beloved friends Mercy Shreeve & Sarah Pope, both of whom produced Certificates from the monthly meeting of upper Springfield in New-Jersey dated 2nd Mo. 4. 1807, and from the quarterly meeting of Burlington in new jersey dated 24th of 2nd Mo. which were read in this meeting to satisfaction —

Adjourned to the third hour to morrow afternoon —

16 day Met by adjournment —

The representatives being called are all present that attended yesterday —

The records of the meeting for Sufferings were read, by which it appears that they have attended to the business which came before them in a manner that meets the approbation of this meeting —

After deliberating on the Subject, it is concluded that a new appointment of that meeting take place at this time, whereupon the Committee on general services are desired to propose to this meeting at a future Sitting, such friends as may appear to them suitable to compose a meeting for Sufferings —

The Committee on general services made the following proposal, which after deliberate consideration is adopted for a minute of this meeting, viz^t

It is the judgment of this meeting, that monthly meetings have a right, in case of reversal of their judgment, against any individual member, on account of irregular dealing only, to take up the case again and proceed according to discipline, and it is recommended to Committees of superiour meetings to be careful when reversals are made, on account of irregular dealing only, to express the same in their report, which is directed to be inserted in all our books of discipline, under the head of Appeals —

It appearing necessary for the convenience of our Womens meeting, that the accommodation for holding our yearly meeting be enlarged, whereupon William Rotch, William Almy, William Buffum, Sylvester Wickes, David Buffum, Richard Mitchell, William Rotch Junr Benjamin Freeborn, Moses Brown, Joseph Harris, William Peckham, Jethro Mitchell, Laban Mitchel, Joseph Tucker and Samuel Collins are appointed a committee to consider of the most proper mode of effecting the same, and in case a sufficient Sum be raised, by voluntary Subscription for that purpose, they are authorized to make application to Rhode Island monthly meeting to appoint a committee to meet and confer with this meetings committee on the Subject, and if they be united herein that monthly meetings committee by & with the advice of a Sub-Committee to be appointed by this meetings committee, are desired to

to proceed to make such additions and alterations as they may judge proper to answer the desirable purpose by another year — This meeting adjourns to the 10th hour to morrow morning

7th day Met according to adjournment

The committee to consider of suitable friends to compose a meeting for sufferings, propose the following names viz. Elisha Thornton, William Almy, William Rotch Junr. Moses Brown, David Buffum, Rowland Greene, Micajah Collins, Laban Mitchel, Paul Rogers, Thomas Arnold, James Barker, Sylvester Wickes, Joseph Harris, Daniel Anthony, William Peckham, Mathew Purrington, Richard Mitchel, Obadiah Williams, James Tucker, William Buffum, Richard Mowry, Walter Allen, Benjamin Freeborn, Samuel Thurston, Moses Farnum, David Mitchell, Clarke Rodman, Daniel Howland, James Smith & Obadiah Davis — This meeting Unites herein and they are appointed to constitute a meeting for Sufferings the ensuing year, to proceed therein agreable to the former appointment and constitution of that meeting — And they are as way opens to examine the discipline of friends of the neighbouring yearly meetings, and if, in their judgment, any useful improvements may be made to ours, they are to report the same to this meetings consideration next year

Essays of Epistles to the yearly meetings of London, Philadelphia, New-York & Virginia were presented, which were read, approved and the Clerk is directed to sign them on behalf of this meeting

Endorsements were prepared for the Certificates of our beloved friends William Flanner, Richard Jordan, Richard Mott & Mathew Franklin, that their company and religious services were truly acceptable — likewise for our esteemed friends John Haines & Stephen Gardner that their company had been acceptable to us — the Clerk is directed to endorse the same and sign them on behalf of this meeting ——

The Clerk is directed to extract such of our minutes, as may be necessary, and forward them to our several Quarterly meetings ——

Under an humbling and grateful sense, that the master of our assemblies, hath at this time been near in graciously affording help, whereby we have been enabled to transact the weighty concerns of Society, that have come before us, in brotherly love and harmony —— We conclude, proposing to meet again next year on this Island if the Lord permit ——

Signed on behalf of said meeting
by —— Obadiah Davis Clk

From our yearly meeting held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 13th of 6 Mo: 1807, to the 17th of the same inclusive; To the yearly meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends

The reading your affectionate Epistle of last year in this our annual assembly, has so revived the fellowship and love that has often heretofore been manifested in our intercourse of this kind that we are encouraged to believe that it not only produces a revival of brotherly affection, but encourages & strengthens that unity that ought to be participated by brethren professing the like precious faith. That we believe it right on our part to use our endeavours to continue to cultivate it.

We have been made thankful at this time in feeling deeply interested and concerned that our members may feel more and more the prevalence of that divine love which alone can qualify for the various services of the Church and whereby we may be enabled not only to promote every appearance of good, but also to know the standard of truth availingly supported over the transgressing nature, that by the abasement of self, such a reduction of will may be witnessed, particularly by all whose allotment it is to watch over the flock, that in their labours with those who have wandered from the fold, they may be enabled to evince they are alone actuated by the spirit of pure love, whereby there will be ground to hope they may be instrumental in gathering such into the sacred enclosure) —

We

We have had renewed cause to believe that the principle of truth is immutable, and that although we have sorrowfully to behold some [illegible] falling on the right hand and others on the left, yet the foundation is sure, the truth is the same and the way is the same; may we be engaged to dwell under its influence, and carefully follow its leadings, the only safe way for us to walk in, and the only ground of hope that we may be preserved in the path of righteousness and peace

We are comforted in the hope, that a termination of "the" "wrongs of Africa" is approaching & that much of the iniquity heretofore practised upon the people of that Land, will be shortly done away, our government having exerted their powers for the total abolition of the Slave-Trade, after the close of the present year

Under a grateful sense of the influence of divine love and the prevalence of condescention & harmony which has attended our deliberations at this time, we are affectionately your friends & brethren

Signed in & on behalf of said meeting
by ——— Obadiah Davis Clk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island
for New-England from 13th of 6th Mo. to 17th of the same inclusive
1807.

To the yearly meeting of Friends at Philadelphia

Dear Friends

We have been favoured to meet together again in this capacity, and under the influence of divine love have experienced our minds engaged both to look into our own State and the State of the Society at large, who compose this part of the family — And though many deficiencies appear by the reports brought up from the several quarters, yet there is a comfortable hope that a concern is still experienced and that it will increase, to know an overcoming of those things which cloud the understanding, alienate the mind and mar the beauty of our holy profession ——

Your acceptable Epistle of the present year hath been duly received, wherein we note with much satisfaction that there are of the youth among you who afford an encouraging prospect of coming up in faithfulness to the discoveries of light and truth, wherewith their minds are visited; may the number of these be increased, both with us and with you — and may they be encouraged to use diligence to make their calling & election sure ——

We have been favoured in our deliberations on the concerns of Society with the prevalence of brotherly love and condescention, and have had renewed cause to believe, that the Lord still careth for his people

5

and is still graciously disposed to do them good. Therefore may the upright in heart wherever scattered, put their trust in him who has promised that such he will never leave nor forsake ——

It is very acceptable to learn that your endeavours for the improvement & civilization of the Indian natives have been blessed, and that the State of your boarding School of the institution at West-Town is such as to promise usefulness ——

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting by —— Obadiah Davis Clk

From our Yearly-Meeting held on Rhode Island for New-England, from the 13th of 6Mo to the 17th of the same inclusive 1807 To the yearly-meeting next to be held at New-York ——

Dear Friends Through the continued kindness & mercy of our heavenly Father, we are permitted again to meet in this our annual assembly, instituted under divine

ap-

appointment by our predecessors in the blessed truth, for the
import purpose of commemorating the goodness & compassionate
regard of him, who had called them to a life of purity & peace,
and of superintending the various concerns of the Churches,
and of the Society of which it is composed; a sense of the weight
of this charge now committed unto us of the present day
we trust, has been felt by a number now present, in a
manner measurably suitable to its importance, and
the very serious responsibility attaches thereto. — —

In viewing the present state of the Society, in the
different parts of this yearly meeting, we have cause of
humiliation and sorrow; too evident Symptoms of lukewarmness and indifference appearing in various
instances: — Yet notwithstanding this view on the
one hand, we have been favoured with a more animating
prospect on the other, a religious care and zeal appearing
to be kept alive in most places, and in some a hopeful
succession of the youth, and a hope & expectation is entertained, that a weighty consideration of these things has awakened
some minds to a more serious attention to their spiritual
concerns, and bound them more closely to the law and the
testimony of truth in their own hearts —

May this disposition of mind continue to wax stronger & stronger to
spread and become more generally prevalent, subjecting
the natural power, propensities & will of the human heart
and understanding, entirely to its rule & dominion. —

For unless some good degree of this rule & dominion is known
and remains to be witnessed & felt, we are sensible that
in vain we shall labour to cleanse & dress the vineyard, to

to set the hedges and repair the walls, though apparently with a warm and active zeal for the cause ——

(( ) When this divine principle has the ascendency and bears rule, love will become the spring of action; the selfish principle sometimes discoverable in a disposition to rule the heritage, will be done away, and the divine blessing may be humbly hoped for upon the labours of instruments thus employed, though weak and feeble in their own estimation, and that their work will stand and prosper ——

Your acceptable Epistle of the present year, has been received and read in this meeting to our comfort & satisfaction ——

May a mutual engagment be witnessed to continue and support our correspondence, under a suitable sense of that divine influence, by which alone it will remain to us a mutual source of strength, comfort & rejoicing in the Lord.

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting
by ——— Obadiah Davis Clk

From our Yearly-Meeting held on Rhode Island for New-England by adjournments from 13th of 6 Mo. to the 17th of the same inclusive 1807. —

To the yearly meeting of Friends in Virginia

Dear Friends

By divine permission we are again met in this our annual assembly, for transacting the weighty affairs of Society, and we have thankfully to acknowledge the renewed evidence of divine favour, under the influence of which we have travelled together in much harmony of mind — We have also to note the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of the present year, which has been read in this meeting to our satisfaction — —

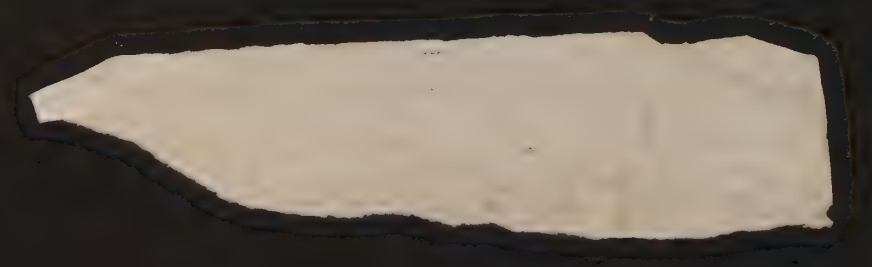
Oh Friends! how have we to deplore with you the influence of the spirit of the world, operating in its various ways, seducing some with its profits, some with its honours and enticing many others with its pleasures! and how does this consideration call aloud for an increasing care and watchfulness in every member of our highly favoured Society, that our precious testimony be not dishonoured by the unfaithfulness of individuals — Society looketh at its members — the enquiring mind, and even the world expecteth much from them, and there are none so low or hidden but what have their share of work, by precept or example; — therefore let us be sober, be vigilant and let us each one daily labour after renewed ability to come up faithfully in the discharge of every duty — We

We desire to be reverently mindful of the manifold favours conferred upon us, and we are comforted under the many pressures we feel with a hopeful prospect among the rising generation, and the stability of some more advanced; May such be encouraged to persevere in, and to walk worth of the vocation where-unto they are called ——

We are aware that the true Spirit of fellowship consisteth not in words. This may account for the brevity of this our present communication: And let us dear friends live in that love which neither time nor distance can Separate, and in which we salute you at this time ——

We are affectionately your friends & brethren ——

Signed in & on behalf of said Meeting
by —— Obadiah Davis Clerk.



1808.

At our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island, for New England, began with Public Meetings for Worship, both at Portsmouth and Newport, on first day, the 12th of the 6th Month, 1808; and at Newport on Second day morning, the 13th, for Church Discipline: ——

Accounts being received from our several Quarterly Meetings, the Representatives therein named, are, —— For Rhode Island, Daniel Anthony, Joseph Buffinton, Benjamin Freeborn, John Wilbour, and Elisha Harris, —— For Salem, Paul Rogers, Samuel Collins, Ezekiel Hoit, Richard Dame, and Matthew Purinton, —— Sandwich, Saban Mitchel, James Tucker, Russell Davis, John Wing, jun.r Smith Brown, and Peleg Mitchel, —— Falmouth, Moses Sleeper, Samuel T. Hussey, George Philbrick, and Rufus Horton, —— Smithfield, Israel Sabin, Moses Farnum, Jesse Batty, Walter Allen, and Thomas Watson, who, being called, are all present.

Our beloved friends Evan Thomas, with his Companion John M.c Kim, attended this Meeting with Certificates; the former, from the Monthly Meeting of Friends, held at Baltimore, for the Western District; and the latter, from the Monthly Meeting of said Baltimore, for the Eastern District, which were read to satisfaction.

Corresponding Epistles from our brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, and North-Carolina, were read in this meeting, to edification. & Thomas Pirtle, William Almy, Samuel Rodman, Thomas Howland, Elisha Thornton, William Rotch, jun.r Daniel Brayton, Nicajah Collins, and William Dean are appointed to prepare Epistles to the aforesaid Yearly Meetings, & to have transcribed, such of the Epistles received, as it may appear useful to send down to the Quarterly Meetings.

The several Quarterly Meetings inform, that they have directed their proportion of Stock paid to our Treasurer.

We appoint Chad Smith, Joseph Harris, Matthew Purinton, Smith Brown, and Rufus Horton, to audit Accompts with the Treasurer, report the state thereof, & sum necessary to be raised the ensuing year, and propose a Treasurer.

Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, proposes, agreeably to the direction of last year, that their Quarters be held, in future, on the second fifth day in the eighth month at Bolton, in the eleventh month, at Leicester, in the second month at Smithfield, and in the fifth month at Smith-

1805. Northbridge, which is acceded to by this Meeting. [,] with a preceding public meeting at each place.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met by adjournment.

The Representatives proposed Samuel Rodman for Clerk, and Obadiah Brown, for Assistant, which meeting our approbation they are accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

Salem Quarterly Meeting inform, that they have united with Sandwich Monthly Meeting, in approving the public appearance in the Ministry of Cyrus Beedee, and in dismissing Nathan Beedee from the station of an Elder; Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, that they have united with Nantucket Monthly Meeting, in approving the public appearance in the ministry of Lydia Gardner, and with Sandwich Monthly Meeting, in approving the public appearance in the ministry of Benjamin Percival, junr; - Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, that they have united with Sidney Monthly Meeting in dismissing Jeremiah Butler from the place of an Elder.

The Queries, with answers thereto from the several Quarterly Meetings, were read, and the deficiencies therein manifested? - having called forth some feeling observations, it is desired they may have due place in our minds. The state of Society as therein exhibited is meant to be comprised in the following Summary, viz?.....

It appears that our Meetings, both for worship and discipline, have been generally attended by most of our Members, though there is an obvious deficiency in some, particularly in the attendance of midweek meetings; the hour is generally observed; a few instances of sleeping, in which some care is taken; mostly clear of other unbecoming behaviours..... Love and unity appear to be in a good degree maintained; detraction is mostly guarded against; and care is taken to end differences, when they appear ..... There are a number who are concerned to bring up those under their care in plainness, and to restrain them from reading pernicious books, and from corrupting conversation; and who are exemplary herein; yet there appears to be a sorrowful deficiency in others. The Scriptures are read in Friends families..... Friends appear to be mostly preserved from the unnecessary use of spirituous liquors, and frequenting taverns and places of public resort; where it has been otherwise, some care has been taken; - moderation and temperance are generally observed at births, marriages, and burials..... The necessities of the poor are attended to..... Mostly careful to attend to our order respecting marriages, and to preserve our testimony

on account of military matters; when there are exceptions, care is taken.....
Some apparent neglect in timely settling accounts, and paying just debts.--
Public gifts are duly applied.....Our records are mostly attended to.....
A good degree of care is taken to deal with offenders, and to place judg
ment, when it appears necessary, according to discipline.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings, for the year past, were read, which manifest an attention to the business that came before it, to the satisfaction of this Meeting.....And the Friends that now constitute that Meeting, are continued for the ensuing year: and it being thought that an addition to the present number of the Members of that Meeting may be useful, we appoint, Wm Rotch, Ezekiel Hoit, Jonathan Chace, Rufus Horton, Elisha Thornton, David Buffum, and Samuel T. Hussey, to consider of the number, and report to a future Sitting, such as they may judge eligible, for the appointment.

Adjourned to the 10th hour to morrow morning.

——— 14th day. Met according to adjournment.

The Representatives being called, are all present.

The London printed Epistle of last year, was read, the valuable contents of which, being satisfactory, we hope may tend to our edification.

Samuel Mead, having appealed from the judgment of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, and appearing in this Meeting to prosecute it; and that Quarterly Meeting having appointed a Committee to represent them therein, we appoint Sylvester Wicks, Joseph Collins, Benjamin Freeborn, Ezekiel Hoit, Isaac Hacker, Paul Rogers, Jethro Mitchel, John Bailey, Willm Anthony, Moses Sleeper, Samuel T. Hussey, and George Filbrook, to hear the parties, and report their judgment to a future sitting of this Meeting.

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts, and for other purposes, report, That they find a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, of two hundred nineteen dollars and thirteen cents, and propose the raising of eight hundred Dollars Stock, for the ensuing year, proportioned as follows:— Rhode-Island, $205; Salem, $109; Sandwich, $360; Falmouth, $46; Smithfield, $80; which report is accepted, and those Meetings are requested to forward the same to our Treasurer.— They also propose Caleb Greene as Treasurer, for the year ensuing, which being approved, he is accordingly appointed.

The Committee to consider of the number of Members to make the necessary addition to the Meeting for Sufferings, report,

Moses

Moses Sleeper, Samuel F. Hussey, Cornelius Howland, John Casey, Thomas Howland, and Samuel Rodman, which report being accepted, they are accordingly appointed.

Adjourned to the 9th hour tomorrow morning.

15th day. Met according to adjournment. The Representatives being called, are all present.

An Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Friends of Virginia, held last month, was received at this sitting, and read to satisfaction.

The following report was received and read, viz. .....

"We, your Committee, appointed to hear and determine on the case of the appeal of Samuel Slead, from the judgment of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, in confirmation of the judgment of Uxbridge Monthly Meeting, in disowning the said Samuel; having had a lengthy opportunity with the parties, and fully heard them; it is our opinion that the judgment of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, confirming a judgment of Uxbridge Monthly Meeting against Samuel Slead, be confirmed.—

Joseph Collins, John Bailey, Jethro Mitchell,
Paul Rogers, Ezekiel Hoit, William Anthony,
Newport, 6m° 15, 1808. Sylvester Wicks, Samuel F. Hussey, Moses Sleeper,
Isaac Hacker, George Philbrook, Benjamin Freeborn.

To the Yearly Meeting, now sitting."

---which, being considered, is accepted, and the judgment of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, in the case alluded to, hereby confirmed.

The Committee appointed to prepare Epistles, presented Essays for the Yearly Meetings of our Friends, in London, Philadelphia, New-York, Baltimore, and North-Carolina, which being read, considered, and having the approbation of the Meeting, the Clerk is directed to transcribe, sign and forward them, agreeably to their directions.

The Clerk is directed to forward to the several Quarterly Meetings, such Extracts from these Minutes as relate thereto.

Endorsements on the Certificates of our Friends Evan Thomas and John M°Kim, expressive of their company and services being acceptable, were approved, and signed by the Clerk.

The Committee appointed at last Yearly Meeting, to enlarge the Meeting-House for the accommodation of the Women's Meeting, report, that the House is completed, and that the amount thereof, (about three thousand dollars,) has been raised to defray its cost, by

voluntary Subscription, agreeably to that minute.....And Thomas Arnold and Samuel Rodman are appointed to receive a deed of conveyance, in trust, for Rhode-Island Monthly Meeting, of the Land necessary for the occupancy of said building, for the use of this Yearly Meeting.

This Meeting, having been favoured to transact the business that came before it, in brotherly love and harmony, concludes under a grateful sense thereof,--and adjourns, to meet again next year at this place, if the Lord permit.

Sam.l Rodman, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting for New-England, held on Rhode-Island, by adjournm.t from the 12th of the 6th m.o 1808, to the 15th of the same, inclusive.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.---

Dear Friends,

The reading of your acceptable Epistle of last year, together with your general Epistle, hath, at this time, renewedly excited our brotherly affection and sympathy, with some degree of solicitude that your desires for our "encouragement in a continued deep attention to the inward and immediate instructor" may prove availing; knowing that it is only through this attention that we can expect any advancement in the blessed cause of Truth, and experience a right qualification to labour successfully in the Church of Christ: and convinced of the great necessity there is for this labour within our borders, from the many defections that appear from the reports of our several Meetings, a renewed exercise hath been brought upon this meeting that the minds of Friends may be quickened to more diligence and watchfulness, and thereby the standard of Truth may be raised in the hearts of the negligent and careless members of our Society, our several testimonies be preserved, and we become more and more in reality what we profess to be, a self-denying humble people, to the praise of him who hath called us to faithfulness.

It is, indeed, cause of thankfulness and encouragement, that after so many years of solicitude and concern, manifested by our Society for the extinction of the inhuman African Slave Trade, we should have the comfortable reflection, that each of our Governments have distinguished themselves by interposing their authority for the suppression of so great a national evil. While we lament the continuation and progress of the spirit of war and devastation in the world, we feel a tender anxiety that all in profession with us, may be careful to preserve our testimony against that anti-christian spirit, a due attention to which will be a means of leading us more into union with that divine power which breaths peace

on

1808. Peace on earth and good will to men.

Signed on behalf of
Said Meeting, by
Sam.l Rodman, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends, held on Rhode-Island, for New-England, from the 12th of the 6th M.o to the 15th of the same, inclusive, 1808.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

Your acceptable Epistle of 4th M.o last, has been received, and the affectionate salutation which it communicated was very comfortable to us.

This Meeting hath been large, and in our deliberations on the concerns of Society, which have come before us, we have been favoured with that influence which enables to conduct them in harmony and concord.

From the reports which have come up from the several Quarters, we have had, as it appears also to have been your lot, painfully to observe many deficiencies, and none perhaps more prominent and painful, than the insensibility which is manifested by some in neglecting duly to attend our religious meetings, and by an indecent and undevout deportment, when assembled in them. Our minds, under these affecting circumstances, have been solicitous, that those of these descriptions, may be awakened from their lethargic and dangerous state, may come to know what are the first principles of the divine oracles, a concern for their own souls, and thereby have their minds quickened and made alive to the dignified excellency of our holy profession, the very essence of which is, pure, spiritual worship. Very vain indeed must the pretensions of any be to the religion of Jesus Christ, who are not, by the moving considerations, which are presented to their view, even the mercies of God, engaged to present their bodies living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to him. That any under our name, by neglecting this reasonable duty, should bring a reproach upon themselves, and the profession which they make, is, indeed, cause of deep affliction and exercise to the upright in heart.

We note with particular satisfaction, your concern for the beloved Youth, who are just entering upon the scene of active life; on whose account our minds have also been dipt into sympathy and concern, that they might be preserved through the various temptations to which they are exposed, and not be discouraged from pursuing a religious life on

account

account of the evil example of some more advanced. . . . . .

The present affecting and troubled state of things, has also engaged our attention, and Friends have been tenderly and affectionately advised, to keep clear of every thing which would lead their minds to a participation of the spirit of commotion, contrary to the dictates of our peaceable principles.

Signed on behalf, and by direction of said meeting,
by Sam.l Rodman, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode-Island, for New-England, from the 12 th of the 6 m.o to the 15 th of the same, inclusive, 1808.

To the next Yearly Meeting to be held in New-York.

Dear Friends,

Under an humbling sense of the continued visitation of our heavenly Father's love, whose tender mercies are over all his works, and whose long suffering continues to be extended unto his backsliding and disobedient children, we have again in this our Annual Assembly, to acknowlege his kindness and condescension towards us, and have been enabled to conduct the concerns of the Society that have come before us, in a good degree of of brotherly love and harmony. In a feeling consideration whereof, we hope and trust that the minds of some have been quickened, and their hearts engaged to a renewal of their covenants with him, and a more faithful dedication of themselves to his service. — May the number of these, both with you and with us be increased, and they strengthened and enabled to overcome every opposition, and finally to persevere therein to the end.

Your acceptable Epistle of last month has been received and read in this Meeting to our satisfaction. We unite with you in a fervent desire, that we may all be more and more engaged to "withdraw ourselves from the fascinating influence of the spirit of the world," which would not only tend to preserve us from mixing in political and party engagements, which frequently tend to contention and war; but also from that close attachment and love of the lawful things of this life, which secretly draws the attention from better engagements, clouds the understanding, and leads us to approve and adopt many principles of the world, in pursuit thereof, inconsistent with that integrity and uprightness, which the Truth enjoins, and which our worthy predecessors were engaged to preserve in all their temporal concerns. May we all, our beloved youth in particular, keep in our remembrance,

1808. Remembrance, that upon all these things, this sentence is indelibly written, they shall perish with the using, and that however they may now blossom to the view of some, or seem ready to yield a plentiful harvest to others; the solemn time will soon come, when it will all fade and wither unto death; "for the fashion of this world passeth away," but the Truth will remain to all those who put their trust in it, a never failing support in every trial and affliction through life, and their abundant and sufficient portion of joy, at that solemn period, when every other dependence shall utterly fail.

We have been sorrowfully affected, in considering the state of Society, with the view of many weaknesses and deviations, exhibited in the accounts from different parts of this Yearly Meeting, and we hope a renewed engagement has been witnessed by some, whose duty and station it is, to act as watchmen in Zion, to repair her waste places, and rebuild her walls; may these become more and more loosened from an attachment to this world, and thereby enabled, by the impressive language of example, as well as precept, to invite the youth, to strengthen and encourage the weak, and to arouse the indolent and supine, to a more faithful discharge of duty, in their various allotments and stations in the Church. ——

Signed on behalf, and by direction of said Meeting,

by Saml. Rodman, Clk.

From our Yearly Meeting for New-England, held on Rhode-Island, by adjournments, from the 12th day, of the 6th, mo. 1808. to the 15th of the same, inclusive.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held at Baltimore. ——

Dear Friends,

Your acceptable Epistle of last year came duly to hand, and was read in this Meeting to our satisfaction and comfort. And, notwithstanding we omitted writing you last year, we feel desirous of maintaining a brotherly correspondence with you, in this Epistolary way; and as the account you gave of your meeting was comfortable to us; it may also be acceptable to you, to hear, that our Meeting has been large, and we humbly trust has been divinely favoured; whereby we have been enabled to transact the business which has come before us, in brotherly love and harmony.

We unite with you in believing, that the right education of our youth, is a matter of the first importance; and also, in order thereunto, that parents and heads of families must have a right qualification; the which,

we who are in those capacities desire, increasingly to experience? - - - - - - - -

The sorrowful circumstance of the improper use of Spirituous liquors was in a weighty manner brought before this meeting; and the necessity of Friends becoming more deeply engaged in support of our testimony, against the destructive use of it, was sensibly felt. - - - - -

And although we have hitherto done but little, towards assisting the Indian natives; yet it is very satisfactory to learn, that your aid is continued to them; and that there is encouragement to press forward in so laudable a work.

We also, have been brought under a deep exercise, on account of the great danger which Friends are in, in respect to Government affairs, both as it respects party, and the holding of office — the present time, we apprehend, instead of blending with the world in these things, calls loudly upon us, to come out from among them, and be separate; that our strength may be preserved, and united; and we the better enabled to meet and bear the trials which await us. - - - - - But notwithstanding the many prevailing evils in the world; and fallings short in our own Society, we are comforted in the belief, that there are a number among us, who are well engaged, and that the number of these is not decreasing. - - - - - And under an humbling sense, that the Truth is the same, yesterday, to-day, and forever; and consequently the means of salvation the same; we conclude, and are

Your friends & brethren

Signed on behalf of the meeting aforesaid,
by Sam.l Rodman. Clk.

From our Yearly Meeting for New England, held on Rhode-Island, by adjournments from the 12th day of the 6th month 1808. to the 15th day of the same, inclusive.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in North Carolina.

Dear Friends,

Surely it is "good and pleasant for Brethren to dwell together in unity" - and under a fresh feeling of it, in acknowledging the receipt of your affectionate Epistle of last year, we are again engaged to salute you — Amid the varied trials incident to life, and the exercises attendant on religious sensibility, we derive no small comfort and encouragement from the sympathy and salutation of our brethren, however separated by distance, and we feel a willingness on our part most cordially to cherish a mutual and tender remembrance.

This, our

This, our Annual Assembly has been large, in which we have had renewed cause of thankfulness to believe, that He who keepeth covenant with his People, is still near to do them good; and that nothing is wanting for a more exalted display of the Standard of Truth, but a greater attention to duty, among those who are enlisted under its banners. ——— And this under a view of the many mercies graciously extended which call for deep gratitude, should any fall short of that Reward which is promised to the Faithful, an observation relative to a State formerly may be applicable, "Ephraim hath mixed with the People, and although he knoweth it, not, his strength is devoured by Strangers."

Many matters have, in the course of our deliberations claimed the solid attention of our minds, among which the use of Spirituous Liquors with its pernicious consequences, has increased a desire, that Friends every where may be guarded. And a concern has been felt, that in the attendance of our smaller and particular meetings, as well as in the various other branches of Christian duty, there may be evinced a greater dedication and faithfulness.

In a body, large, and composed of many members, weaknesses frequently shew themselves: but let the faithful, however, so far from relaxing their care or abating their courage, be excited to greater diligence, for "after having done all that it is our duty to do, we have need, saith the Apostle of Patience, that we may inherit the promises."

Desiring that we may all dwell near the Rock, where the righteous in all ages have dwelt, and found safety, we conclude, and are

Your Friends and Brethren,

Signed on behalf of said Meeting, by

Sam.l Rodman, Clerk.

1809. At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode-Island, for New England, beginning with Public Meetings for Worship, at Portsmouth and Newport, on first day the 11th of the 6th Mo. 1809, and at Newport on Second day morning, the 12th, for Church Discipline.

Accounts being received from the several Quarterly Meetings, the Representatives therein named, are, ... For Rhode-Island, Sylvester Wickes, Benjamin Slade, Obadiah Williams, Thomas Arnold, Robert Knowles, son of John. ... Salem, Paul Rogers, Ezekiel Hoit, Samuel Collins, Matthew Purington, Daniel Johnson. ... Sandwich, Samuel Rodman, James Tucker, Joseph Tucker, Philip Dunham, William Macy. ... Falmouth, Moses Sleeper, Thomas Jones, Ebenezer Winslow. ... Smithfield, Jabez Wing, Amos Aldrich, Richard Mowry, William Buffum. Who being called, are all present.

Our friend James Mendenhall attended this Meeting with Certificates from the Monthly Meeting of Hopewell, and the Quarterly Meeting of Fairfax, Virginia, expressive of their unity with his visit and Ministry. ... Also, our friend Job Haines, with a copy of a minute from Evesham Monthly Meeting, New Jersey, expressing their unity with his accompanying our friend James Mendenhall, as an Elder in good esteem, ... which were read to satisfaction.

Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of London, Philad.a New York, Baltimore, Virginia, and North-Carolina, were read in this Meeting to satisfaction, and William Rotch, Jun.r Thomas Howland, Micajah Collins, William Almy, Thomas Arnold, Rowland Greene, Elisha Thornton, John Wilbor, and Moses Brown, are appointed to prepare Epistles to the aforesaid Yearly Meetings.

We appoint William Buffum, Daniel Johnson, Ebenr. Winslow, Richard Mitchell, and William Sawyer Wall, to audit the Treasurer's Accounts, report the state thereof, a sum necessary to be raised, and propose a Treasurer for the ensuing Year.

The Qr.y Meetings inform that they have directed their proportions of Stock paid to the Treasurer.

Thomas Arnold and Samuel Rodman, report, that according to appointment last year, they have received a Deed of Conveyance in trust, from Rhode-Island Monthly Meeting, of the land necessary for the occupancy of the addition to the Meeting-House; and caused the same to be recorded.

1809.

The London printed Epistle was read, we trust, to edification, it containing many valuable and pertinent observations.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the past year, were read; and the attention therein manifested to the business that came before it, meeting our approbation; the Friends that have last constituted that meeting, are appointed for the year ensuing.

Our friends Esther Griffin and Hannah Field attended this meeting, with a Certificate from Purchase Monthly Meeting,—— also, our friends Anna Merritt, with a copy of a minute from Nine-Partners Monthly Meeting; and Elizabeth Hunt, with a Certificate from Rahway and Plainfield Monthly Meeting..... all, expressive of unity with their ministry and prospects.—— Also, our friend Anna Shotwell, with a minute from the last mentioned monthly meeting, expressive of their unity in her accompanying Elizabeth Hunt on her visit..... and, our friend Hannah Mitchell, with a copy of a minute from Nine Partners Monthly Meeting, manifesting their unity with her attendance, she being an Elder in esteem.

Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting, in their account, inform that they have united with Rhode-Island monthly meeting, in approving the public appearance in the ministry, of Susanna Barker, Hannah Dennis, and Sarah Fish.—— Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, that they have (united) concurred with Nantucket monthly meeting for the Northern District, in the appointment of Elizabeth Mitchell, to the place of an Elder.—— Falmouth Quarterly Meeting, that they have concurred with Sidney monthly meeting, in disowning the public appearance of Deborah Pinkham.—— Smithfield Quarterly meeting, that they have united with Uxbridge monthly meeting, in the appointment of Moses Farnum to the place of an Elder.—— Wm Rotch, Junr is appointed to inform the Select Meeting hereof.)

Adjourned to the 3d hour this afternoon.

Afternoon—met by adjournment.

The Representatives proposed Samuel Rodman for Clerk, and Obadiah Brown, Assistant, for this Year, which meeting the approbation of the Meeting, they are appointed accordingly.

The Queries, with answers thereto from the several Quarterly Meetings, were read, whereby many Deficiencies were opened to the view of the Meeting, and produced a lively concern in the

minds

minds of many present, which gave rise to many feeling remarks and pertinent observations, particularly upon the neglect of our Meetings, and the defect of love and unity; as well as the baneful effects of an indulgence in the use of spirituous liquors; in some instances, expressed in the answers — accompanied with encouragement to a further faithful discharge of individual duty, and the promotion of our testimony in its various branches. The state of Society, as contained in the Answers to the Queries, is nearly comprised in the following Summary:

It appears by the Answers to the Queries, that our Meetings are all kept up, and most of our Members diligent in their attendance; others are remiss; and midweek meetings, and those for Discipline, not so punctually observed; mostly free from unbecoming behaviour, except some instances of sleeping, in which cases some care appears to have been extended? —— That love and unity are generally preserved, and detraction mostly guarded against; yet not without exceptions, which appear to have claimed some attention — Care to end differences is manifest throughout the answers to this query. —— That care possesses the minds of most Friends to preserve plainness in their families and to guard against the reading of pernicious books and corrupt conversation, and to be exemplary themselves, but others appear to be too regardless thereof. The holy Scriptures are frequently read in most friends families. —— Our testimony against the use of spirituous Liquors, Priests Wages, Slavery and War appears to be maintained: the instances in which frequent use of spirituous liquors, and where training requisitions have been complied with, or fines paid, are under notice of the Meetings where they have occurred. —— Moderation and temperance appear to be observed at births, marriages, and burials. The necessities of the poor are attended to. — A general care prevails in the settlement of accounts, and payment of debts, yet some shortness is obvious in these respects. Public Gifts and Legacies are duly applied. Records of births and deaths are not so strictly observed as is desirable: Marriages duly recorded. Care is taken to deal with offenders, and to place judgment, when necessary, according to Discipline.

This meeting dwelling under the concern expressed in the foregoing minute, and being impressed with a belief that usefulness may be derived by an endeavour to extend the exercise thereof to the Quarterly Meetings, — appoint Obadiah Davis, Sylvester Wickes, John Baily, Moses Sleeper, Daniel Anthony, Obadiah Williams, Daniel Brayton, and Wm. Dean to prepare such Communications to them, as

may

may upon deliberation appear beneficial, and produce the same to a future sitting.

Adjourned to the 9th hour tomorrow morning

13th. Met by adjournment. The Representatives present.

Our friend John Hartshorne presented a minute from Shrewsbury Mo. Meeting, expressive of its concurrence in his accompanying Elizabeth Hunt, which was read to satisfaction.

This Meeting is informed from the Meeting for Sufferings, that such alterations as appeared to them necessary to be made in our Discipline being completed, are by them directed to be laid before this Meeting. And taking the subject under consideration, it is concluded with the concurrence of our Womens Meeting, that the alterations made, be read to the audience of both Meetings, for a general information thereof.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met by adjournment.

The alterations proposed to be made in our Discipline having been read in this and the preceding sitting, conformably to the minute made in the morning thereon, and as the reading gave rise to some observations upon a few articles of the proposed alterations, which seemed, for the valuable purpose of producing harmony and agreement therein, to render the appointment of a committee necessary to consider the propriety and application thereof, and report to a future sitting the result of their deliberations, with the variations they may deem suitable to adopt; and William Rotch, Ebenezer Winslow, Jon.a Dennis, Samuel Collins, Rouse Taylor, Stephen Gould, Joseph Collins, Philip Dunham, Daniel Johnson, Eber Slade, John Bailey, Jesse Eddy, Ezekiel Hoyt, Thomas Jones, & Abishai Bunker, are appointed, in conjunction with the members of the Meeting for Sufferings, and a Committee appointed by our Women Friends for the purpose.

Adjourned to the 3d hour tomorrow afternoon.

14th day. Met by adjournment. The Representatives present.

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's Accounts, and for other purposes, Report, that they find a ballance in his hands, of $420 93/100 $38 of which is in money not current & counterfeit; 31 of the former & 7, of the latter. That the sum of $600 is necessary to be raised for the present year, in the usual proportions. Rhode Island, $153 75/100

Salem, $81.75/100. Sandwich, $270. Falmouth, $34.30/100. and Smithfield, $60.

They also propose Obadiah Brown, as Treasurer for the year ensuing, which report is accepted; and the Treasurer thereby appointed, and hereby authorised to receive of the late Treasurer, the balance above mentioned, with the Book or Papers appendant to the office.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Communication to the Quarterly Meetings, presented the following, which the Clerk is directed to forward, with extracts from the minutes of this Meeting, viz.:

[Communication.]

At this Meeting several Epistles were received from other Yearly Meetings, from some of which we have made the following extracts, and recommend them to our several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, as containing matter worthy of the solid attention of our Members.

"We are renewedly sensible, that in order to labour availingly for the removal of deficiencies it is necessary to be replenished with a sensible feeling of love to the great author of all our Mercies, whereby a careful watch is maintained over our own steps, and a fervent solicitude for the best interest of others: and when in honest simplicity little intimations of duty are attended to, there is ground to believe such private labour is often blessed.

"It is sorrowfully obvious that many continue in the neglect of attending Meetings for the solemn purposes of divine Worship; may the minds of these be awakened to a just sense of the dangerous situation in which they stand; for we believe it to be impossible for any to grow in the root of vital religion, while they continue in the habitual disregard of this incumbent duty. In the exercise which we have at this time felt on behalf of the beloved rising generation, strong desires have possessed the minds of many. Brethren, that the weighty duties which belong to parents and heads of Families, may be discharged with increasing faithfulness; that the hearts of the fathers may indeed be turned to the Children; and by dwelling near the principle in themselves, they may be enabled to watch over their tender and susceptible minds, and to lead them along not only by precept but by the powerful influence of correct example."

"Dear Friends, as the present is a season of great commotion in the world, a fervent desire hath been felt and expressed in this meeting, that the Members of our Society may by an increased circumspection and care, avoid any interference with the political contentions of the times, believing that those who become actuated by such dis-

positions,

positions will be assuredly estranged from the unity and simplicity of Truth, and be led into a confusion of judgment and feeling; which will render the blessing of quietness and assurance (while in that situation) impossible to be attained."

Adjourned to the 8th hour tomorrow morning.

15th Day. Met by adjournment. The Representatives present.

The Committee appointed to take under consideration how far the observations which were made upon reading the proposed alterations in the Discipline, might tend to its improvement, and produce the object intended; Report that they have attended thereto, and agreed upon some variations therein, which they have submitted to our consideration; and being Read and approved, and having the concurrence of the Womens Meeting, the Discipline as now established, is placed under the care of the Meeting for Sufferings, for the purpose of being printed; and the subordinate Meetings furnished therewith; the number to be left to the discretion of that Meeting.

The Committee to answer Epistles to the Corresponding Yearly Meetings, presented Essays thereof, to London, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York, Virginia, and North Carolina, which being read, and after some corrections, approved the Clerk is directed to have them fairly copied, sign them in behalf of the Meeting, & forward them to the respective Meetings.

Endorsements, on the Certificates of our friends James Mendenhall, Job Haines, and John Hartshorne, of our satisfaction in their company and services, were approved, and signed by the Clerk.

This Meeting having been favoured to transact the business that came before it, in a good degree of brotherly condescension, concludes under a grateful sense thereof, and adjourns to meet again next year at this place, if the Lord permit.

Sam.l Rodman, Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island, for New-England, by adjournments from the 11th of the 6th mo. to the 15th of the same, inclusive, 1809.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends,

Your acceptable Epistle of last year has been received and read in this our annual assembly, which has been pretty large, and in which besides the usual subjects of deliberation arising out of the general state of the Church, some matters of importance relative to our Discipline, have claimed our serious and weighty attention. In our various exercises and engagements wherein we have had thankfully to acknowledge the supporting arm and presiding influence of him, who alone is the Head and Lawgiver in his Church; and whereby we have been enabled to transact the various concerns that have come before us, in brotherly love and condescension.

We have thankfully to believe that a comfortable state of quietude and settlement of mind, has been witnessed by most, during a season of some apprehension of outward commotion, and that we have been mercifully preserved. We have to remark diverse affecting deficiencies and transgressions, appearing in the accounts sent up from our several Quarterly Meetings, which have engaged our careful attention, and excited a fervent exercise in many minds to extend a helping hand to the various states of such as are thus deviating from the path of righteousness.

The beloved youth in particular have been brought near to the spirits of exercised brethren, in a view of that solemn period, when they can no longer extend to them their fostering aid in the race of virtue and religion, either by their example, precept or encouragement; when the field of labour shall close, and the all important trust and stewardship of heavenly treasures here on earth, shall devolve upon the succeeding generation. — May all, particularly those who are actively concerned in the Church who have at times to counsel and advise the rising generation, — be cautious and restrain the youth, deeply enter into these considerations; and may they be anxiously solicitous to know and experience in their own minds, a thorough redemption from the dominion of their own will, and from the inordinate love of the world in all its shapes, whereby they will be enabled to remove out of the way of the beloved Youth, all stumbling at their example, and all doubt and scruple as to the sincerity of their counsel and advice.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting by Sam. Hodgman
Clerk

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1809

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island, by adjournments, from the 11th of the 6th month, to the 15th of the same inclusive, 1809.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held at Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

This our annual assembly hath been large, and a measure of that love which produceth unity, hath been dispensed to us; under the influence of which the weighty concerns that have claimed our notice, have been conducted in harmony.

Your acceptable epistle of the present year hath been received and read; affording instruction and encouragement.

The accounts brought up from the several branches of this meeting exhibit various weaknesses and deficiencies; the consideration of which hath sensibly affected the minds of livingly exercised Brethren, who have been enabled to offer seasonable and pertinent communications, adapted to the respective cases; which we desire may be availing in producing suitable dispositions to co-operate with divine assistance in endeavours to remove them?

The neglect of attending meetings for the solemn purpose of Divine worship is prevalent with some amongst us: we believe that could they of this description be made sensible of the loss they sustain and the danger they incur, by such neglect of obvious duty, that they would need no other inducement than the impressive call of their own awakened feelings, for a more faithful attention to this "reasonable service."

It is very acceptable to us to be informed, that your concern and labour for the civilization of the Indian Natives affords a hope of usefulness to that people.

With the salutation of love, we remain, Your friends,

Signed on behalf of said Meeting, by

Sam. Rodman, Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at New-York.

Dear Friends,

We have at this time received your affectionate epistle, which was read in this meeting to our satisfaction, and we have had renewed cause to believe, that such interchange of sympathy and love between those who are exercised for the promotion of truth and

righteousness, affords encouragement to persevere in a faithful discharge of those duties which devolve upon us, when thus assembles to watch over the extensive concerns of our Society. Although there appears much cause for lamentation that many amongst us, are captivated by the spirit of this world, and thereby deprived of the blessings which await all those who are dedicated in heart to the Lord's service, yet we have been comforted with the belief that there are also many who are in good degree given up to labour faithfully in the cause of truth; and we have been made thankful in the persuasion that the Shepherd of Israel has been near to us at this season, and afforded help to inspect into the state of Society, whereby a concern has prevailed that more individual engagements of mind may be witnessed to watch over one another for good, to extend caution and counsel to the delinquent in that spirit of Christian love and good will, which we believe will often have a tendency to gather into the true fold. — May those upon whom this important duty may devolve, wherever situated, carefully seek for right qualification, and therein labour faithfully for the edification of the Church.

Although we have but little to communicate at this time, we are comforted in that we feel love for the brethren, and that we can inform you we have been favoured in condescension and harmony to settle the important concerns that have come before us.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Meeting aforesaid, by

Saml Rodman, Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting next to be held at Baltimore.

Dear Friends,

Being once more met together, we salute you in love, and acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable epistle of the 10th mo. last, which hath been read in this meeting. We may thankfully acknowledge, that through the extension of divine love we have been enabled to transact the business which has come before us, in condescension and harmony. We find, in looking into the state of the Church, things which do not comport with its dignity, and which ill requite the gracious dealing of our heavenly Father, yet we are comforted in feeling a renewed concern to remove those things, and it is particularly encouraging that many among the younger class, appear to be girding themselves for the work: and though there are with some of our Youth, whom we would cherish as the hope of the succeeding generation, those deviations

1809

which affect us with sorrow, yet we believe that the labours of the Church and the pious parental care which these may have witnessed, is not lost. — the principle of truth is deeply implanted in some of their hearts, and we can but hope the dew of heaven, with the consolation of discharged duty, will be availing, and their attention more fixed on that principle, which in their retired moments they often so feelingly distinguish. May these, with us and you, prize their day of visitation, and remember, that where much is given much is required. Among other considerations which have excited our concern is that of the political contentions of the times; and we feel renewedly desirous, that friends every where may be cautious of contributing thereto; but that we may, both by example and precept evince, that we are followers of the Prince of Peace. Your concern respecting the improvement of the Natives, excites our sympathy; and though unforeseen difficulties may retard your success, yet we hope you will be strengthened to persevere in an undertaking so benevolent and humane. We also feel renewedly desirous, that although the Slave Trade is prohibited by Law, friends may not relax their attention towards that aggrieved people; but on all suitable occasions be ready to sympathize with, and relieve them. Our meeting hath been large, and through the several sittings thereof favoured with the overshadowing regard of our heavenly Fathers love — for which, with every other blessing, may we duly return thankfulness and reverence.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Meeting, by

Sam.l Rodman, Clk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia.

Dear Friends,

Having, thro' Divine favour, met again in this our annual assembly, and thro' the same holy help, we trust been enabled to transact the worthy affairs of the Church that have come before us, in a good degree of brotherly love and concord. — And altho' in examining the State of Society, as presented from the various parts of this Yearly Meeting, we were pained in observing the deficiency of many, in the faithful support of those testimonies which we believe Truth requires at our hands: and the open departure of some from our Christian profession — Yet we have been led to believe, and to feel, that the Shepherd of Israel hath not forgotten to be gracious; and that there are those among us,

who are engaged to build again the breaches in the walls of our Zion.
And a desire hath been begotten, that the number of these among us and you, may be increased, and they encouraged to persevere, each one in the way of his duty, in the ability vouchsafed; remembering, The Lord is the same yesterday, to day, and forever.

We received your acceptable Epistle of last year; the lively concern therein manifest, that the testimony of Truth, against all unrighteousness may be borne, by its professors, with increasing steadfastness, is cause of encouragement to faithful travellers Zionward.

This meeting hath been diligent into a state of fellow-sympathy with you, on account of the greatly injured and oppressed Africans, and their descendants. And altho' much hath been done, both by Friends and others, and the labours of these crowned with a blessing, which is cause of rejoicing, yet we believe much remains to be done: and a concern hath been revived in this meeting, that we may not fall into a state of ease and supineness on this account. And notwithstanding, there is comparatively few of this oppressed class of our fellow-men here away, yet we believe there are many among us, who feel themselves bound to plead their cause.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Meeting, by
Sam'l Rodman, Clk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in North Carolina.

Dear Friends,

In the course of our deliberations in this our Annual Assembly, we have been comforted by your remembrance of us, manifested by your affectionate Epistle of last year, and also in finding you have been again encouraged to advocate the cause of the greatly oppressed African race. The blessings that have already attended the labours of those who have been concerned for the relief of that highly injured people evinces that it is a cause worthy of the encouragement of all those who feel concerned for the promotion of righteousness in the earth; and they afford an animating hope that by perseverance and faithfulness the accomplishment of your desires will be attained; and altho' we are thankful on account of that people, that less remains for us to do for them in this part of the country, we however feel solicitous

that our testimony may be faithfully maintained amongst ourselves, & that your hands may be strengthened to discharge the duty that yet remains for you, believing it to be well pleasing in the Divine sight, and that a blessing will attend your religious exercises on their behalf.

We have also been affected, in "observing the deficiencies still subsisting amongst our members;" and are led to believe if parents and guardians of children, were sufficiently redeemed from the world, and zealously concerned for the promotion of the cause of Truth, both in themselves and their children, the beloved youth of the present day would be more preserved from undue liberties, and such would often be enabled by precept and example to draw their young and susceptible minds, from the many alluring vanities and follies, which so easily captivate and lead many of them astray. May you, dear friends, be encouraged to faithfulness and diligence, in those important duties, and may the dear children endeavour to keep their minds open to the tender visitations of divine love, which no doubt have been often extended to you, wooing and persuading you to forsake the vanities of life, and to submit to the daily cross; for in thus yielding obedience to the manifestations of Truth, you will find an increase of your strength to overcome the evil propensities of nature, and thereby gain an establishment on that foundation upon which alone the true enjoyment of happiness and comfort can be derived.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Meeting.

by Sam.l Rodman, Clk.

to the Meeting this Year.

1810

At our Yearly meting of Friends held on Rhode island for New England, beginning with public meetings for worship, at Portsmouth and Dunpost on first day the 16th of the 6th month 1810, and at Newport on second day morning the 11th for church Discipline.

Accounts being received from the several Quarterly mitings the Representatives therein named are, for Rhodeisland, Daniel Anthony, Peter Havie Daniel Brayton, Joseph Congdon and Jonathan Dennis. — Salem Daniel Gow, Samuel Collins Paul Rogers Esqrs Newhall, Mathew Purington, and Micajah Collins. Sandwich, James Tucker, Samuel Hedman John Bailey & Isaac Peckham. Falmouth, Edward Cobb, Noah Head, John Horton & Rufus Horton.

Smithfield, Josiah Shaw, Rowland Ruth bun, Thomas Holder, Nathan Allen & Jonathan Mowry. who being called, are all present, except Samuel Collins, for whose absence a reason, satisfactory to the meting was offered.

Having at this Meeting the acceptable company of our beloved Friends, John Shoemaker from Abington Monthly meting, Pennsylvania, and Thomas Titus from Cornwall monthly and Nine partners Quarterly meeting, New York, their Certificates of concurrence in their visit & unity with their ministry were read to satisfaction, together with James Hazard's companion to Thomas Titus, from Cornwall monthly meeting — Maurice Carman's companion to our Friends Sarah & Mary Hull from Stanford monthly meeting — and Joseph Underwood's from the monthly meeting of De Kuyter, these friends being also acceptably with us. —

Epistles

Epistles from the yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia, Newyork, Baltimore & North Carolina, were received and read to our satisfaction. Wm Rotch jun? John Bailey, Micajah Collins, Obadiah Davis, William Almy, Elisha Thornton Thomas Arnold, Rowland Greene & Chad Smith are appointed to prepare Epistles to the aforesaid yearly meetings, and present them to a future sitting.

The Accounts from the several Quarterly meetings inform that they have directed payment of the yearly meetings Stock.

James Parker, Obed Mitchel, Paul Rogers, Walter Allen, Obadiah Williams, Edw. Cobb, Moses Tarnum, Benjamin Freeborn, Mathew Purington, are appointed to audit the Treasurers accounts, consider of a sum, necessary to be raised for the stock of the ensuing year, apportion it to the respective Quarterly meetings, propose a Treasurer, and report the same to a future sitting.

The London printed Epistle of last year, was received & read to our comfort, its contents being salutary and edifying.

The yearly meeting having for several years past made provision thro' the agency of the meeting for sufferings and Rhode Island monthly meeting for the accommodation of friends attending it, and a prospect being expressed and united with that some beneficial improvement in this object of the Meetings care might be made, we appoint Joseph Harris, Otis Newhall, William Anthony, Cyprus Horton, Jesse Bates, Wm. Macy, Wm. Almy, Jonathan Rodman, Wm Cobb Daniel Gove to take the subject into consideration, and report their judgment thereon to a future sitting or to the meeting for sufferings.

Rhodeisland Quarterly meeting in their account informs that they have approved of the recommendation of Elizabeth Chace & Mary Earl of Swansey Monthly meeting to the place of Elders. — Salem Quarterly meeting that they have united with Seabrook monthly meeting in rehearing the publick appearance in the ministry of Amos Peasley. Sandwich Quarterly meeting, that they have united with Pembroke monthly meeting in the appointment of Tabitha Bailey. Nantucket monthly meet-

ing in the appointment of Susanna Bunker & became monthly meeting in that of Esther & Lewitt & New Bedford monthly meeting in the appointment of Rhoda Rowland & & Mary Howland, and & Nantucket monthly meeting & Smith district in the appointment of Robert Brayton to the place of Elders and with the last mentioned monthly meeting, in approving the public appearances in the ministry of & Mary Ellis by and Elizabeth Barker, Smithfield Quarterly meeting that they have united with Smithfield monthly meeting in the appointment of Zacheus Southwick to the place of an Elder —

William Rotch Junr is appointed to inform the Select meeting hereof.

& Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

& Met according to adjournment.

Representatives present as in the morning.

The Representatives propose Samuel Rodman for Clerk, and Obadiah Brown assistant for this year, which having the approbation of the Meeting they are appointed accordingly.

& The Queries with & Answers thereto from the several Quarterly & Meetings were read, which awaken'd a concern in the minds of many friends, that led to several feeling judicious remarks upon the deficiencies manifested in those answers particularly in the neglect of our religious meetings, - giving way to sleepiness in some instances, - a defect in Love & unity, — and the improper use of spirituous liquors, — which we desire may be duly impressed on our minds, and transmitted by the Representatives to the several quarterly meetings, with a caution, that we carefully support our Christian Testimony against War, and not indulge a vain curiosity in attending trainings, or any military exhibition even as Spectators. of this & Minute the Clerk is desired to furnish the Representatives with a Copy.

The State of Society as contained in the answers to the Queries, is nearly comprized in the following summary.

It appears by the & Answers to the Queries, that our meetings are kept up, and attended by most members and the hour observed; yet a remissness in the attendance of midweek meetings & meetings for discipline, and instances of sleepiness

are

are sorrowfully observable, generally clear of other unbecoming behaviour. — Love & unity, are generally preserved, detraction guarded against, and care taken to end differences when apparent. — That friends are mostly careful to preserve plainness in their families, and to restrain them from reading pernicious books, and from corrupt conversation, and frequently read the holy Scriptures therein.

Our Testimony against the improper use of spirituous liquors appears to be maintained, by the care expressed to be extended, where such sorrowful instances have occurred. — Moderation and temperance appear to be observed at births marriages & burials, and the necessities of the poor attended to. — a Care that our marriages are conducted according to discipline prevails — and our Testimony maintained against Priest wages, bearing of arms and military matters. dealing in goods suspected to be run or evading payment of duties; mostly careful in the settlement of accounts and payment of debts and to live within the bounds of friends circumstances: Records of marriages duly attended to. births & deaths somewhat neglected — Care appears to be taken to deal with offenders and to place judgment according to our discipline. —

Our Friend Willet Hicks acceptably attended this sitting, with a Copy of a minute from New York monthly meeting, expressing their unity with his ministry, and concurrence in his visit to this Yearly Meeting.

Adjourned to the 4th hour tomorrow afternoon.

Met according to adjournment.

The Respresentatives present as heretofore.

Certificates from Stanford monthly meeting State of New-York, in behalf of our friends Sarah Hull and Mary Hull, directed to this Yearly meeting, expressive of Unity with their ministry & concurrence with their visit, were read, their company being acceptable.

The Records of the meetings for sufferings for the past year were read, and proper attention appearing to have been manifested to the concerns, that came before it, their care is approved of by this meeting. And the following friends, are appointed, to Constitute a Meeting for sufferings for the year ensuing. Elisha Thornton, Moses

Brown, David Buffum John Casey, Rowland Greene Thomas Arnold, William Almy, Silvester Wickes, Joseph Harris, William Rotch jun.r & Wm. Buffum, James Barker, Daniel Anthony, Rich.d Mowry, Obiediah Williams, Obadiah Davis, Walter Allen, Benjamin Freeborn, Micajah Collins, William Peckham, James Tucker, Samuel Thurston, Clark Rodman, Daniel Howland, Moses Farnum, David Mitchell, Nathan Pierrington Rich.d Mitchell, Paul Rogers, James Smith, Moses Sleeper Samuel T. Hussey, Cornelius Howland, Thomas Howland, Peleg Mitchell & Samuel Rodman.

Adjourned to 10.th hour to morrow morning.

Met according to adjournment.

The Representatives present at this sitting

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurers accots and for other purposes made the following report

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts, &c. have examined the same, and find a balance in the Treasury of four hundred seven dollars & 94 cents And propose the sum of 900 dollars, for the present year, apportioned as follows viz.

Rhodeisland Quarter	$232
Salem D.o	122
Sandwich D.o	424
Falmouth d.o	45
Smithfield d.o	77
	$900

And also propose Obadiah M. Brown for Treasurer the ensuing year Signed on behalf of the Committee

6 month 13. 1810 Walter Allen.

Which is accepted and Obadiah Brown is reappointed Treasurer the ensuing year.

The Committee to prepare Epistles to the Corresponding yearly Epistles presented & Copys thereof to London, New York, Philadelphia Baltimore & North Carolina, which were read, and after some corrections approved and the

Clerk is directed to have them fairly copied, sign them in behalf of this meeting, and forward them respectively.

Endorsements on the certificates of our friends, John Shoemaker, Thomas Titus, Willet Hicks, Maurice Barman & James Hazard, expressing our satisfaction in their company & services, were directed to be made, and signed by the Clerk.

Similar endorsements, on the certificates of our friends, Sarah & Mary Hull, presented from the women's meeting, were signed by the Clerk.

The attention of this Meeting being called to the situation of a dormant School fund, belonging hereto, and a concern expressed that it may be brought into activity, for the benefit of the present generation, we appoint Willm Rotch, Rowland Greene, Micajah Collins, Holder Hamy, David Durfee, Obadiah Brown, Clark Rodman, Willm. Anthony, Rufus Horton, Obed Mitchell, Moses Brown, Joseph Anthony, Chad Smith, Moses Farnum, Noah Reed, Richd. Mowry, Thomas Holder, Daniel Johnson, to take the subject into their consideration; and after acting the necessary information of the principles and intentions upon which the donations were made that constitute said fund, to report their judgment at our next Yearly meeting, how and in what manner, it may be most usefully and consistently applied.

This Meeting having been favoured to transact the concerns thereof, in Brotherly Love and Harmony, concludes, under divine favour, to meet again at this place next year, if the Lord permits.

(Signed) Samuel Rodman Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England, by adjournments from the 10th of 1st month 1810 to the 13th of the same, inclusive.

To the next yearly meeting of Friends to be held in London.

Dear Friends. Your acceptable Epistle of last year has been received, and the important intimations which it contains, we trust have been profitably noticed and attended to.

This meeting has been favoured to transact the concerns of this part of the society in brotherly love and harmony, and been engaged through divine help, to excite in our members a greater degree of faithfulness in the maintenance of our religious testimonies. The important one, of carefully attending our meetings, for divine worship, has been particularly a subject of our concern. We are indeed a highly favoured people, and through redeeming mercy, have been measurably gathered to an inward acquaintance with the spirit and power of Truth in our hearts, in which at times and seasons a qualification has been experienced, we humbly trust to offer up acceptable worship to the God & Father of all our mercies.

The dignity and purity of our Holy profession in this respect, has appeared renewedly precious in our view, and desires have been raised, that we may continue to follow on more fully to serve the Lord in this his spiritual appearance in our hearts. Under an impression that the supporting of our Christian Testimonies will shortly devolve upon those who are Young, we have felt fervently solicitous, that they may be favoured to attain to an establishment in the spiritual life of the gospel dispensation; and may be enabled duly to prize the blessed benefit of having bread in their own houses, and water in their own cisterns.

And it is with heart felt gratitude, that we observe that there are a number of these, whose minds appear to be gathering to the true place of feeding, may their number be increased.

With brotherly Love we remain your Friends.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly meeting

Samuel Rodman Clerk

this year

1810

From our Yearly meeting held on Rhodeisland for New England, by adjournments from the 10th of the 6th month 1810 to 13th of the same, inclusive.—

To the Yearly meeting of Friends next to be held in New York.

Dear friends,

Your acceptable Epistle of the present Year was duly received, and read to our satisfaction.

Our meeting has been as large as usual and mercifully favoured with the extension of divine regard, under a sense of which many minds have been humbled and drawn to persevere in the Lord's work. Harmony and feeling in the transaction of our Business has been prevalent and although deficiencies appear; we are comforted in believing that the great cause of holiness on Earth, is still precious in the view of many, and it is no small source of consolation, that among this number, many beloved Youth may be found, these have excited our sympathy and tender concern; that they may persevere, and experience a holy willingness from season to season to submit to the intimations of Truth in the morning of their time; may such for their encouragement remember that an early sacrifice is peculiarly acceptable to the God of our lives. And it hath been the earnest concern of this meeting, that those who are more advanced and before them, may so walk, and conduct themselves, that they may not by any means, be the cause of suppressing the arisings of Life and religious concernment in them; but that their examples may availingly breathe forth "follow me." It is humiliating to acknowledge that there is complaint of deficiency in some of our members respecting the attendance of our midweek meetings, and it has been the occasion of much exercise at this time; whence living desires have arisen that such delinquent brethren may be quickened and renewed in their spiritual understandings and embrace the present opportunity for the promotion of righteousness, and for gathering peace to their own bosoms, may we be humble, and reflect that our lives are not at our commands.— that they were given us; for the purpose of the Lord's glory, and be willing

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to dedicate them to his praise & service

Your information respecting the prosperity of the Boarding School, and the progress of Civilization among the Indians, is grateful to us.

With the salutation of brotherly love, we conclude, and are your Friends.

Signed on behalf of said Meeting
Samuel Rodman Clk

From our Yearly meeting, held on Rhodeisland for New England, from the 10th of the 6th month 1810 to the 13th of the same, inclusive.

To the next Yearly meeting of Friends, to be held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends We have received your acceptable Epistle of 4th month last, — and may inform you, that this our Yearly meeting, has been as large as usual & favoured through the several sittings thereof with the covering of divine Love and Mercy, whereby we have been enabled to transact the affairs of the Church which have come before us, in brotherly love & harmony; and under this covering to feel our faith strengthened, and our hope renewed, whereupon we have fresh occasion to believe, that notwithstanding there are some trying and discouraging things in Society all those who love and serve the Lord will be owned and blessed of him.

The present is an eventful day, may we therefore become more and more separated from the world and the spirit of it, and place our hope and confidence in God alone.

Our Spirits have been dipped in sympathy in the consideration of the affairs of the Church, and our prayers have been united to the God of all grace & of Glory, that he would be graciously pleased to continue unto us his holy aid, so that we might fill up our allotments in the Church mili-

militant, and become the meet subjects of the Church triumphant. — And weak and deficient as we are, yet we are induced to hope that these are not only among the aged and middle aged, but among the Youth, who are devoted to the Law, and to the Testimony, and that as those are removed, these will fill their seats with propriety and usefulness; and may all be encouraged to press forward, toward the mark of the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus our Lord, so as to obtain an inheritance among those who are sanctified.

It is grateful to us, to hear of the Prosperity of your School at Westtown.

With brotherly love, we remain your friends & brethren.

Signed on behalf of the Yearly meeting.

Samuel Rodman Clerk
this year.

From the Yearly meeting of Friends held on Rhodeisland for New England by adjournments from the 10th of the 6th month 1810. to the 13th of the same inclusive.

To the next Yearly meeting of Friends to be held in Baltimore.

Dear Friends.

Being again permitted through divine goodness & mercy, to address you from this our annual Assembly, in which we have renewedly experienced the covering of divine Love to be measurably spread over us, we trust we are authorized to say, that a considerable number have been humbled, under a consideration thereof, and of the many blessings we receive from the bountiful hand and compassionate regards of our heavenly Father, still (to be)

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continued to be extended unto us as a People, notwithstanding the too convincing evidence of our ingratitude and disobedience: and that desires have therein been begotten, and the minds of such quickened and raised to a lively engagement, that we may in future manifest a more suitable return of obedience, gratitude and love. ——

Your acceptable Epistle of the 10th month last, has been duly received, and our desire is at this time, that the bond of Union and Fellowship, which results from having the same object in view, and employing the same means in pursuit thereof, may never wax old like a garment, nor the commemoration thereof between us, decline into formality; but that it may be our constant care and engagement to dwell near to that fountain of Fellowship and Love, from which all may drink freely, & according to the blessed assurance of our Saviour when on earth, this becomes in us "a well of water springing up, unto everlasting life. —— Happily we might then have hope and confidence, that the things which pertain to this world, would be kept under foot, or in their proper places as servants, & no longer tend to blind our spiritual vision, or to obscure our prospect, and to mar in our view the beauty of those things far more excellent in their nature, and eternal in their duration.

It is grateful to us to be informed, that our Testimony against the use of, and commerce in, spirituous liquors is advancing with you. —

We have been enabled to transact the various concerns of society, that have come before us, with brotherly love and harmony, to our comfort and satisfaction, and have been therein united in labour for the correction and removal of those visible deviations from a faithful maintenance of our christian testimony, which have appeared in the accounts received from the meetings hereto belonging. — That a more deep and ardent travail for doing away the cause of these by applying the axe to the root of the corrupt tree may more universally prevail among us, is the desire of your affectionate friends and brethren. Signed on behalf of the aforesaid meeting by

Samuel Rodman Clerk.

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1810

From the Yearly meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England from the 10th of 6m. 1810 to the 13th of the same inclusive

To the next Yearly meeting of Friends in North Carolina

Dear Friends,

Having again been favoured to meet in our Annual Assembly we have had renewed cause of thankfulness, in experiencing the continuation of that divine Influence, which has heretofore been graciously afforded to us, when in simplicity of heart, we have been engaged to wait for ability to transact the important concerns of the Society, and believing the cause we are engaged in is of the Lord, and that he only can qualify to discharge the various duties of the Church, may we be careful and diligent to seek unto him for direction in all our movements; and as this becomes sufficiently our care, we have no doubt he will be pleased to prosper the work in our hands, to the honour of his great Name. —

Your Epistle of last year has been received at this time, and it was acceptable to us to be again remembered by you. and also to find that notwithstanding the many difficulties you have found, in the way of obtaining the object of your religious concern for the oppressed African race; you have felt a renewed engagement to apply again to the Legislature on their behalf — We feel desirous, that you may not relax in your endeavours to hold up to view, the Testimony of Truth against that spirit of violence and oppression, which still continues to degrade this highly favoured Country.

We have felt renewedly concerned at this time for the dearly beloved Youth, who must soon be our Successors in the Church, that they may be preserved under the forming hand of him who hath called them by the visitations of his

love,

Love, to excellence and to Glory; and may those, both with you, and with us, yield their tender minds to his government, who alone is able to fit and qualify them for the important services of his righteous Cause, and will as they are sufficiently submissive to the Operation of his redeeming Love, dignify them in his Church & service

With the salutation of Love we remain your Friends & brethren

Signed on behalf of the aforesaid Meeting by Samuel Rodman Clerk

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At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode-Island for New England, beginning with public Meetings for Worship at Portsmouth & Newport on first day the 16th of the 6th month 1811, And at Newport on second day morning the 17th for Church Discipline. — —

By accounts from the Quarterly Meetings, the representatives under appointment are, from Rhode Island Quarter Joseph Harris, Clark Remmes, William Peckham, Joseph Burlington & Rowland Green; Salem, Ebenezer Winslow, Samuel Hopkins, Thomas Jones & Joseph Estes; Sandwich — James Thacher, James Barker, Josiah Kirby, Joseph Briggs & Russell Davis. Falmouth — Matthew Purington, Richard Dame, Micajah Collins & John Slocum Smith, Fields Joseph Eddy, Thomas Holder, Daniel Wheeler & Zacheus Southwick. — The Representatives being called are all present, except James Barker for whose absence, the indisposition of his family was alledged. Epistles from the Yearly Meetings of London, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York & North Carolina were read to our comfort &

and satisfaction; He appoint William Jun. William Rotch Jun.
Nicajah Collins, Thomas Arnold, Rowland Greene, Thomas Rowland
William Dean, Richard Burn, & John Bailey to prepare essays
of Epistles to the foregoing Yearly Meetings, as well as to the Yearly
Meeting of Virginia if way opens in the minds of the committee
therefor, and present them to a future sitting. — — —

The accounts for the several Quarterly Meetings inform that
they have directed payment of the Yearly Meetings Stock. Abijah
Pennington, Daniel Johnson, Benjamin Slade, Joseph Congdon, Geneva
Winslow, Samuel F. Hussey, Peter Barney, Abishai Bunker, Zacheus
Southwick & Chad Smith are appointed to audit the Treasurers ac-
counts, consider of a sum necessary to be raised for the Stock of the
ensuing Year, Apportion it to the respective Meetings, propose a
Treasurer & report at a future sitting. —

The following report was accepted from the Committee appointed
last Year, and although its contents have feelingly impress'd this
Meeting with their importance, Yet as it is believed the subject will
be more generally understood, & be brought more usefully before us at
a future sitting, its further consideration is deferred thereto. — —

Agreeable to appointment we have several
times met, and considered of the State of the several sums now due
up to this time is about Eight thousand Dollars, that the Interest
in query for present account including the Interest of this sum with
such additional subscriptions as friends may find freedom to make;
be applied in a school under the direction of this Meeting for sufferings
according to the original intentions of friends in such manner &
under such regulations as they may find themselves enabled most useful
and consistent, & report next Year. And in order more fully to
enable that Meeting to chuse such a School, we submit to the
Yearly Meeting whether according to the original intentions
of

of this Yearly Meeting it may not be most proper that further Advices to the Subordinate Meetings be recommended. Signed on behalf of the Committee

Wm Dey

Newhart 5th of 6th month 1811. —

Moses Brown
Micajah Collins
Obed. Macy
Thomas Arnold

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Met according to adjournment.

The representatives present, as in the morning. The representatives having proposed Obadiah Brown Clerk, & Obadiah Brown assistant Clerk for the Year ensuing, which being approved they are appointed.

The Queries have been read and answers from the several Subordinate Meetings. The state of Society as contained in the Answers to the Queries was read and considered in the following manner.

It appears that at our Meetings for Worship & Discipline generally speaking a solemnity prevails, becoming the purpose of our assembling together, & that in our Meetings for Business, although there are sometimes differences, & concern appears prevalent to preserve our Youth in plainness & restrain from reading pernicious Books & from corrupt conversation. [illegible] families, our Testimony against the improper [illegible] appears to be maintained except in a few instances, where care has been extended, & declaration [illegible] Disorderly [illegible] placed out from among friends under care, & proceeding in regard thereto [illegible] & arms, & Military matters, dealing in goods suspected to be run or evadin

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payment of duties, mostly careful to inspect our affairs & settle accounts
[illegible] are not exactly attended within the course of their circumstances, Records
mostly attended to, where otherwise care appears to be taken, also to deal
[illegible]

Pipe Creek Quarterly Meeting in their account informs
that they have united with Greenwich Monthly Meeting, in the above
[illegible] Elders. Salem Quarterly Meeting, that they have united with Weare
[illegible] of Daniel B. Hoag & Elijah Hoag. Falmouth Quarterly Meeting that
they have united with Windham Monthly Meeting in the appointment
[illegible] Elder. Portsmouth Quarterly Meeting that
they have united with Smithfield Monthly Meeting in the appointment
[illegible] Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Jonathan Hoag to the place of a
Elder. We have at this time had the acceptable company of our beloved
friends William Williams from New Berry Monthly & Quarterly Meeting
of Sunhope, Greene County State of Tennessee. Evan Thomas from Baltimore
[illegible] and Quarterly Meeting. [illegible] Meeting Pennsylvania. Richard Hall from Purchase
[illegible] Monthly Meeting & Quarterly Meeting & yearly Meeting of Ministers
& Elders [illegible] Susannah Horn from Nottingham
Monthly Meeting & Quarterly Meeting & yearly Meeting of Ministers
& Elders [illegible] Kingston Monthly Meeting New Jersey. Rebecca Field from Evesham
Monthly Meeting [illegible] Monthly Meeting. Thomas Hibbard from Purchase
Monthly Meeting & his certificate of removal we have read & [illegible]
[illegible]

Certificates from our Friends Ellicott [illegible] companion to Edmund Thomas; William [illegible] companion to Samuel Cattell, Oliver Parsons companion to Benjamin White [illegible] who are companies [illegible] her companion Mary Stevenson from Burlington Monthly Meeting, & Grace Hill companion to Susannah Smith, who are also acceptable with us. Those not stated friends, [illegible] attended this Meeting with a Certificate from Salisbury Monthly Meeting, Virginia. —

Adjourned to the 4th hour tomorrow afternoon

18th day. Met by adjournment. — The representatives present as Yesterday.

The printed general Epistle from our Brethren of the Yearly Meeting held in London for last Year, was read to our edification & comfort. — — —

Testimonies in behalf of our Beloved friends Mary Mitchell deceased from the Monthly Meetings of Rhode Island & Nantucket (for the Northern district, having been approved by Rhode Island & Sandwich Quarterly Meetings, was handed in by the Womens Yearly Meeting, which were read and approved by this Meeting), and are directed to be recorded.

Sandwich Quarter proposes that their Quarterly Meeting in future be held on the first fifth day of Eleventh month at Nantucket, in the Tenth month at Sandwich, in the twelfth the fourth Months at New Bedford; with which this meeting unites, and the Alteration to take place in the 10th month next. — — —

Adjourned to the 10th hour to morrow Morning. 10½ day met by adjournment. The representatives present as heretofore.

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer Report that on attening thereto find a ballance in his hands of $186.76/100 and propose $900, to be raised the ensuing Year, in the following manner

Rhode Island Quarter	$232
Salem	122
Sandwich	424
Dartmouth	45
Smithfield	77
	$900 with

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with which this Meeting unites, and Obadiah Brown is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Records of the Meeting for sufferings have been read by which it appears that they have attended to the business which came before them in a manner which meets the approbation of this Meeting, the same Friends are continued to compose a Meeting for sufferings the ensuing Year.

The subject relative to the report of the Committee concerning the situation of our present School fund coming again before us, it is concluded to refer to the minute of 1803 when that subject, and Monthly & Quarterly Meetings are requested to promote subscriptions as there recommended. — We adjourn to the fourth hour this afternoon. —

Afternoon met according to adjournment. — — —

Upon looking into the State of our Society exhibited by the Answers to the Queries from the respective Quarterly Meetings, Our minds have been affected with the deficiencies, apparent therein, & deep concern felt upon the occasion; manifested itself in a lively expression upon their inconsistency with our profession, without descending into every particular, at this time, hoping that the minds of Friends in the Meetings subordinate to this may be impressed with the necessity of Vigilance and that, as far as practicable, each concerned friend, may become & consider himself an overseer, & act with the Qualification that Station will confer over himself & such of his brethren as he may discover an abatement of Zeal, or want of concern in the due attendance of our Meetings for Worship & Discipline, or in such as do attend giving way to a drowsy, heedless, thoughtless, & lukewarm spirit of delusion is of very pernicious consequence, in Religious as well as Civil Society is noticed in most if not all the Answers in a way that we

have cause to bear over, monthly, Meeting is more or less affected, by some of its Members, not sufficiently regarding the Advice of the Apostle to "bridle their tongues" by much salutary counsel if duly observed, their minds would be gradually exercised, so that nothing injurious to the Character of another, would proceed from them, We exhort Friends to be guarded against a practice so destructive. — It is also with feelings of regret, & mortification that we have found the known Manifestation in many instances that some of our Members give way to the degrading practice of the frequent use of spiri= =tuous liquors; & Drunkenness to this evil may be classed among the enormities, that are only to be found amongst the degenerate; We believe it right to refer to our Salutary Discipline, and, where after due admonition, & a reasonable forbearance, such as become careless to a sense of the requirings of Truth, their own Cha= =racter, & the happiness & comfort of their families necessarily involved as to persevere therein, without hope of any retrieval, We recommend to Monthly Meetings to renew the testimonies of their conduct by disown= =ment. — The Clerk is directed to forward a Copy of this minute to the respective Quarterly Meetings. — — ——

Endorsements on the Certificates of our Friends William Williams, Evan Thomas, Thomas Scattergood, Benjamin White, Richard Hall, William Wharton, George Ellicott, Oliver Paxton, Caleb Shreve & Asa Hore expressing that their company & services were acceptable to us, were made & signed by the Clerk. — —

The subject of inspecting Testimonies & Memorials of deceased Friends claiming our kind attention, It is concluded that they have the inspection of the Meeting for Sufferings after having the approbation of the Quarterly Meeting, previous to their being presented to this Meeting. — —

The Committee on Epistles have presented Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, North Carolina, & Virginia, which have been approved & the Clerk is directed to have them fairly copied & sign them on behalf of this Meeting, & forward them to the

1811 their respective Yearly Meetings. It is concluded to make out Transcripts of the Epistle we received from London Yearly Meeting and forward to the several Quarterly Meetings.

The Clerk is directed to make the necessary extracts from these minutes & forward them to our several quarterly Meetings.

Having through the continued favours of our Heavenly Father been enabled to conduct the concerns of Society that have come before us in Brotherly love & Condescension under a grateful sense whereof we concluded, and adjourn to meet again next year at this place if the Lord permit. Obadiah Davis, Clerk

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From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th of the 6th month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1811

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends

On the reading of your Epistle for the last year in this Meeting, many of our minds were tenderly affected towards you in the renewed feeling of that love which unites the hearts of those who feel engaged for the promotion of the cause of Truth & Righteousness in the earth, together with the maintaining those Testimonies which as a Society we have been called upon to support, and desires has been excited that we may all be engaged in labouring for the advancement of that precious cause which hath for its object peace on Earth & good will to men! --

Although our minds have been much exercised on opening the state of Society, under a fear that some have suffered great loss, from giving way to a lukewarm & indifferent spirit, yet we are comforted in the belief that others are preserved in faithful dedication to the Lords work & service, and we hope has been revived that the number of these will be increased, of which

there can be no doubt, if the visited children of the Lord are sufficiently engaged to follow him in the way of his requiring, which will lead them into the paths of humility, & enable them to witness an establishment upon that immutable foundation upon which alone we can experience qualification to labour successfully, in the Militant Church. — —

We have had occation to believe at this time that there is no safety in our abiding here, but as we are individually concerned to seek for & dwell under the influence of Divine love, herein we shall be enabled to afford encouragement to the sincere hearted to persevere in the way to Zion, and also have a well grounded hope of persuading the young & rising generation how essential it is to their happiness & greatest good "to seek the Lord for their portion; and the God of Jacob for the lot of their inheritance" this will afford an animating prospect of a succession of faithful labourers in the Lords Vineyard, when those who have been devoted to the burden & heat of the present day may be called hence to receive the blissful reward of their piety & faithfulness. —

Our Meeting has been large, & we have been favoured through our several sittings to accomplish the business which came before us in harmony & love, under a thankful sense whereof we affectionately salute you, who are your friends & brethren.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Obadiah Davis. Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th of the 6th month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1811

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends at New York

Dear Friends.

We have received & read with satisfaction your Epistle of the 5th month last, and turning our attention towards a reply, we feel an

an impression to commemorate the goodness & efficiency of Israels holy
Guide in crowning our assemblies with his Divine presence, under an
humble sense of this peculiar favour, we have been enabled at this time
to transact the affairs which have come before us in much brotherly una
-nimity, And although there are found with us causes of Mourning, We are
comforted in believing that the Law & Testimony, which are given unto
us to hold forth to the World, are precious & held sacred in the view of many
brethren. — May those of every description & every where be encouraged to
faithfulness in removing offences, and in spreading Righteousness, and
may all remember that the great object of the Mission of our Lord was Glory
to God in the highest, Peace on Earth, & good will to Men, to this object we
are mercifully called, and the Testimonies given us to bear are calcu
-lated under Divine guidance to promote its completion. Oh! then may
nothing separate us from the pursuit of this object. — We have eviden
-ces of the effects of an opposing spirit, & that the love of the world &
the pursuit of its maxims & policy, in which this spirit centers, griev
-ously retards the spreading & exaltation on Earth of the blessed Light & work
of Christ. And it is greatly to be desired that Friends may more & more dis
-card the policy & spirit of the world, and be separate therefrom. This is our
obvious duty, and in turning to it, in the humiliation of our hearts, under
the fear of the Lord, how soon do we perceive the reward & effects thereof, a
qualification to partake of his holy dainties, & of that bread which nourish
-eth up the soul unto eternal life is witnessed; his peace abounds & his love
re-concileth all his dispensations. — Our concern respecting a Yearly Meet
-ing school for the pious education of our children hath been renewed at this
time, and altho' the prospect at present is small respecting such an estab
-lishment, a hope is entertained that the general desire among Friends to give
our children a religious guarded education will in some way produce much
good to them & Society.

With

With the salutation of love we remain your friends & Brethren

Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting

Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournment from the 15th of the 6th month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1811

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held in Philadelphia

Dear Friends

Your Epistle of the 4th month last has been received & acceptably read in this Meeting, affording renewed evidence of the usefulness in maintaining our Epistolary intercourse; and the satisfaction to be derived from a mutual remembrance of each other in seasons of consolation & Divine favour. — —

May we preserve a watchful solicitude for the continuance of that spiritual fellowship, & feeling of brotherly love, which will not suffer our Correspondence to wax old or decline into formality. — —

In reviewing the state of Society, as exhibited in the accounts sent up from the Quarterly Meetings, a concern has been witnessed on account of the deficiencies in the support of our religious Testimonies in their various branches, and a comfortable degree of engagement of mind has been manifested by many Brethren for their correction & removal; among which that respecting the frequent use of spirituous liquors claimed particular attention. — —

We unite with you in fervent desire that all those whose situations in the Church are rendered conspicuous, by an active engagement in transacting its concerns, may indeed, by their example become preachers of Righteousness without which (in some good degree accompanying) precept will be in vain and like the fruitless fig tree in time will be found to wither away. — — —

Though not in a situation to take an active part, yet we feel a sympathy with you, in the concern & labour for the improvement & welfare of the Indian Natives; the Original possessors of a Land now flowing with plenty

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plenty, which by the inscrutable dispensations of Divine Providence we are permitted to enjoy.

We observe with satisfaction that the boarding School under your patronage continues in a prosperous way, not doubting whilst that continues to be the case, but very essential advantages will be thereby derived to the Youth, & consequently to the society at large. — —

The subject of Education has also engaged the attention of this Meeting; a general sense of our deficiency herein seems to prevail, and although a difficulty in procuring suitably qualified instructors of our own society, with other obstructions has hitherto prevented our applying a remedy upon that general scale which is desirable, yet no less a concern has been felt in the minds of many Brethren & Sisters which will not be suffered entirely to fall, but a hope is entertained that the seeds of useful & guarded education within the Limits of our own Society, & under the Tuition of our own Members will in time be more extensively sown. — — — —

This meeting has been large, and through Divine Mercy & Condescension has been a favoured time; we having been enabled to transact the various concerns which have come before us, under a sensible covering of our Heavenly Fathers love. Therein we salute you & are your friends and Brethren.

Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting

Obadiah Davis, Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held in Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th of 6th month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1811

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Baltimore

Dear Friends.

Your salutation of Love as communicated by your Epistle of 4th month last has been cordially received by us, and added to the many Instances with which

which we have been favoured in this assembly of having this pure mind stirred up by way of remembrance. — To commemorate the continuance & extension of Divine favour as pleasant, and if accompanied with renewed engagement of mind to improve in more perfect Obedience to the Manifestations of the Divine will, there is no doubt but what it will be owned & accepted as a tribute of praise to his name who is thus calling us out of darkness into his marvellous light. — —

We have to acknowledge the renewed condescension of our Heavenly Father in being near to us at this time by the influence of his goodness, by which we have been enabled to consider of & result the concerns of the Society in condescension & harmony, and we trust that the minds of many have been renewedly encouraged & excited to be found treading in that way which is cast up for the ransomed to walk in.

It is grateful to hear that the weight of our Testimony against the commerce & use of distilled Spiritous liquors is spreading among you. The same concern is also felt by us, and we have reason to believe that this Testimony is gaining ground in some places in this part of the Country. — — — — —

And although the object of your petition in behalf of the oppressed African Race, was not obtained by your petitioning the Legislature of Maryland, we hope that the belief you express that the effort was not entirely fruitless, will among other reasons encourage Friends to continue their attention to this interesting subject as duty may point out. — With the Salutation of Love we conclude

Your Friends & Brethren.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Obadiah Davis, Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th of the 6th month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1811

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia

Dear Friends.

Having been favoured with Communications from the other Yearly Meetings on this Continent, which were satisfactory & edifying, and to pause for a moment under the consideration that we received none from you

you, our minds were turned particularly to this subject, and on recollecting that we did not address you last year, we felt the more engaged to communicate with you at this time. — — —

This our Annual Assembly has been large, & through holy help, we have been enabled to transact the affairs of the Church that have come before us in brotherly love & Concord.

On enquiring into the state of Society with us, this Meeting has been renewedly engaged for the preservation of our Religious Testimonies, which some of our Society, for want of a careful observance of the teachings of Truth in their own Minds, have suffered to fall, some in one way & some in another, and among other of our Testimonies that against the use of spirituous liquors has again claimed our serious attention; viewing the habitual use of those liquors, either fermented or distilled which are productive of intoxication, as being a source whence arises many of those evils so fatal to the well being & happiness of Religious, Civil, & Social Society. — —

Many of our minds are often affected, when we reflect how many of our fellow Men on the Continent are still held in a State of Slavery, not only as it respects the condition of those who are thus cruelly & unjustly held, but as it regards those who are in the daily practice of trampling on the dearest Rights of others, may Friends every where carefully maintain their Testimony against a practice so inhuman & anti-Christian, and not suffer the baneful example of others that may surround them, in any measure to contaminate their minds, well knowing the human mind unless religiously guarded may loose its finest feelings, from a daily beholding of crimes, and to the greatest evils become less abhorrent. — — — —

We say the dear Youth among us & among you carefully attend to the teachings of Truth in their own minds, & not suffer the example of others, any thing else to influence their tender minds than they speak this language "follow us as we follow Christ" firmly believing that as they thus walk they will become Standard bearers to the Truth, & teachers of Righteousness to many even of riper age. — — With the salutation of Brotherly Love we again salute you & are your friends & brethren. — — —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting). Obadiah Davis Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 15th of 6th month to the 19th of the same inclusive 1811

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Carolina

Dear Friends

Though all things below are marked with Vicissitude, yet by the Laws & Rim who settled his Covenant to stand as a Token of his Covenant, we still behold the unvarying succession of Seasons of "seed time & harvest" "cold & heat" "summer & winter" and it is in the continuance of his goodness that we are thus favoured once more to assemble. — — —

In viewing the State of our Society as represented by accounts from our several quarters, we have with you still reason to lament obvious defalcations among many of our Members: yet we are not without our consolation in believing that there remain those who are humbly desirous to walk worthy of the Vocation wherewith they are called. Whatever may be the unhappy tendency of the age to walk in their own ways and after the sight of their own eyes let the Ministers whom ever Station be encouraged to faithfulness in the discharge of their duties in their several allotments. Exhortation to such is not without effect. — —

Ofttimes as with you are the mingled feelings of our minds amid our solicitude for them, we believe an increasing one is felt among us for their proper education: On these must ever long devolve the care of our various Testimonies when the heads & present Standard bearers must be laid low. Consistency of conduct, dignity of Character & Harmony of mind are the happy consequences of Piety towards God & dedication to his will.

May their hearts be more & more [illegible] to the importance of these considerations, so will they be enabled to become faithful witnesses to the recovering power & efficacy of Truth in their day & generation. — — —

Your affectionate Epistle of last year has been duly received & read in this Meeting. We notice your continued concern in behalf of the oppressed African Race, and fervently desire your encouragement in a cause dear to every humane and benevolent mind. The cause, dear Friends is a noble one. Let not an unworthy [illegible] damp your endeavours. Patience & perseverance are of the

means of overcoming great obstacles in the attainment of valuable ends, & peace is the sure reward of all faithful labourers.—

Among the many subjects which have claimed our attention at this time, that of the common use of ardent spirits has been revived, and many judicious remarks have been made.— We hope this concern will be increasingly supported till there remains no longer any cause of reproach toward our Society by the existance of such an evil among our members. — — — — — —

This our annual gathering hath been large.— We have been favoured with fresh evidences of Divine regard, and in a sense thereof have been enabled to transact the Weighty affairs which have come before us.— We have also been favoured with the company of divers friends from neighbouring Yearly Meetings whose according Sympathies, & Gospel services have tended to our comfort & edification. With the salutation of love we remain your Friends & Brethren — — —

(Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting)

Obadiah Davis, Clerk

At Our Yearly Meeting of friends held on Rhode Island for New England, beginning with Public Meetings for Worship at Newport & Portsmouth on first day the 14th. of the 6th Month 1812. And at Newport on Second day Morning the 15th. for Church discipline —

Accounts being received from the several Quarterly Meetings hereto belonging, the representatives therein named are. For Rhode Island. Sylvester Hicks. William Peckham Jonathan Dennis. Daniel & Anthony. & Daniel Brayton. Salem Daniel Gove. Richard Dane. Estes & Newhall. Enoch Page. Isaac Wendell & William Dean.

Sandwich Samuel Rodman. Cornelius Howland, Richard Davis & William Macy, & Warren Gifford, Falmouth. Moses Sleeper. Geo. Shillibeer, Edward Cobb, & Nicholas Cobb. Smithfield Thomas Aldrich, Thomas Holder. Royal Southwick, & Moses Sammon —

Who are all present except Richard Dame for whose absence a satisfactory reason was offered. —

The printed general & corresponding Epistles from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London with those from the Yearly Meetings of Newyork. Baltimore & North Carolina have been read to satisfaction — We appoint Sam. Rodman Thomas Arnold. William Rotch Jun; William Dean, John Wilbor. John Bailey. Micajah Collins, Moses Brown & William Almy. to prepare Epistles to the foregoing Yearly Meetings and to such others as may may open. —

Our friend Elijah Hoag attended this Meeting with Certificates from the Monthly Meeting of Monkton & Quarterly Meeting of Ferrisburg State of Vermont.

Also our friend David Sands. with Certificates from the Monthly Meeting of Cornwall, & Quarterly Meeting of Nine partners State of Newyork. And Matthew Franklyn with Certificates from a Newyork Monthly. & Quarterly Meetings. All expressive of Unity with their Ministry & concurrence in their religious visit.

Also our friend. Fry Willis. with a copy of a minute from Jericho Monthly Meeting on Long Island And Nicholas Batty companion to Elijah Hoag from Monkton Monthly Meeting. expressive of their being Elders in Unity — And Nehemiah Merritt, companion

to.

Matthew Franklyn with a minute from New York Monthly Meeting of his being a member in good esteem.

James Hazard also presented a copy of a minute from Cornwall Monthly Meeting of their approbation of his attendance, — A Copy of a minute from Jericho Monthly Meeting. Long Island expressive of Unity with the Ministry & visit of our friend Anna Willis. was also received —

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs that they have United with Rhode Island Monthly Meeting in approving the Ministry of Holder Almy since deceased, with South Kingston Monthly Meeting in approving the Ministry of Abel Collins. and in the removal of Andrew Nichols from the place of an Elder

Salem. Quarterly Meeting that they had united with Salem Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Estes Newhall to the place of an Elder. —

Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that they have united with Sandwich Monthly Meeting in approving the ministry of Lois Keen. And with Sandwich Monthly Meeting in the appointment of Abel Hall. and Deborah Hoxsie to the place of Elders. —

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting. that they have united with Dartsam Monthly Meeting in approving the ministry of Joseph Sampson, and with Windham Monthly Meeting in Robert Boody. & Mary Turnstons Ministry. And in the appointment of Reuben Bracket William Cobb. Nathan Pope. Salome Robinson. and Mary Read to the place of Elders. —

The several Quarterly Meetings inform that

the

have directed their proportion of Stock paid to our treasurer.

We appoint James Barker. Ebenr Slade. Moses Farnum. Edward Cobb. & Paul Rogers. to audit Accounts with the Treasurer. Report the State thereof. together with the Sum necessary to be raised. and to propose a Treasurer for the year ensuing —

Salem Quarterly Meeting has proposed an alteration in the places of holding two of its Meetings viz That now held at Berwick in the Eighth month to be held at Salem. And that now held at Salem in the Tenth month to be held at Wear at the same time as heretofore. to which this Meeting agrees. the alteration to take place next year. —

Adjourn'd to the Fourth hour this afternoon. —

Afternoon met by adjournment — The Representatives having proposed Samuel Rodman for Clerk. and Obadiah Brown for assistant. this Meeting Unites therewith. and they are accordingly appointed for the year ensuing —

An Epistle from the last Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia. was read in this Meeting to our comfort & satisfaction —

The Queries with Answers thereto from the respective Quarterly Meetings. were read which produced many pertinent observations upon the deficiencies manifested therein. accompanied with tender and encouraging exhortations to an increased care in the discharge of our several duties. in that love. which the profession we make dictates —

The State of Society as described by the Answers is nearly comprized in the following.

Summary.

It appears that our Meetings for Worship & Discipline have been generally attended by most Friends. Three instances of nonattendance in small meetings occasioned by inclement weather excepted. That Mid week Meetings and those for Discipline are attended by a less number than those on the first day of the week. The hours are nearly observed; a few instances of not being sufficiently guarded against Sleeping are mentioned in the Answers from each Meeting. Of other unbecoming behavior generally clear. Love & Unity are generally maintained. And detraction guarded against. Tho' not in the extent that our profession requires. Care has been taken to end differences where they have appeard. There are a number concernd to bring up those under their care in plainness, to restrain them from the use of pernicious books & to guard them against corrupting conversation. Who are themselves exemplary. Yet a remissness in these respects is remarked in some of the Answers — The Scriptures appear to be frequently read in Friends families — Generally careful in the use of Spirituous liquors, though not wholly confind to Medicinal purposes — The unnecessary frequenting of taverns & places of Publi resort generally guarded against. Moderation & temperance are generally observed at births Marriages & burials. & the necessities of the poor attended to.

Two or three individuals are mentioned to have deviated from our testimony against bearing of Arms. No defect has been expressd in the due support of our testimony against Trust wages, property taken in War or of making; also entries to evade the payment of duties — Mostly careful, yet there is some neglect in timely settlement of Accounts and payment of debts — Records are mostly attended to and

care

is generally taken to deal kindly with offenders and to place judgment when necessary.

A concern has been manifested in this Meeting that for the many departures from the line of duty so few instances of care appear in the answers to the queries. It is however charitably hoped, that Labor has not been with held in cases where it is not expressed. Renewed attention is recommended to Friends. And that they bestow advice & admonition whenever it appears necessary in their respective Meetings for the Support & preservation of our testimony. — Adjourned to the fourth hour to morrow afternoon

16th day Met according to adjournment

The record of the doings of the Meeting for Sufferings for the year past was read. The approbation of the Meeting therewith expressed. And a proposition acceded to. That the same friends who composed that Meeting last year, with the exception of our late friend David Hibbard deceased, and the addition of Obadiah Brown, John Wilbor & William Dean, be and they are hereby appointed to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing.

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurers accounts & for other purposes, report that Sixty Nine Dollars & Thirty Nine Cents is the balance in the hands of the Treasurer. And propose the sum of One Thousand Dollars to be raised for the Stock. And that Obadiah & H Brown, be Treasurer for the ensuing year. Which has the approbation of this Meeting. And Obadiah & H Brown, is appointed accordingly. And the Sum proportioned in the following manner to the several Quarterly Meetings — l. 12

Rhode-

Rhode Island Quarter	Ditto	$258	1000 Dollars
Salem	Ditto	135	
Sandwich	Ditto	471	
Falmouth	Ditto	50	
Smithfield	Ditto	86	

The reading of the minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings brought to the view of the Meeting the situation of the Yearly Meeting School fund, and with it a concern that a more satisfactory result might be adopted for the disposition thereof than has lately been attained and the subject having been opened with its various circumstances. It is agreed that a committee be appointed to take it into deliberate consideration, and report to a future sitting of this Meeting — Whereupon William Rotch jun. Thomas Arnold. Daniel Anthony Stephen Gould. Daniel Howland. William Almy. David Buffum. Royal Southwick. Thomas Holder. Moses Shapley Peleg Mitchell. Matthew Purington. Obadiah M. Brown. Joseph Congdon. Proctor Sampson. William Buffum & Jonathan Knowles are appointed therefor.

Adjourned to the 10th hour to morrow morning.

9th day. Met according to Adjournment —

The Representatives being called, are all present. as at the opening of the Meeting. —

An acceptable Epistle from the last Yearly Meeting of friends in Virginia, was received & read at this sitting. —

Being seriously impressed with the consideration that we are Assembled at a season in which calamities of various kinds pervade the Earth. Some of which have nearly approached our

borders

and from the commotions that agitate the councils of Nation
others may be fearfully anticipated. And a concern
having spread over this Meeting. that we as a people
may be favored to walk circumspectly. & consistently with
the purity of our profession. And apprehending that a
communication to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings
of this concern may tend to strengthen the minds of some
and be a guard to others. should greater difficulties &
trials than we at present experience fall to our lot —

The Committee who have the care of the Epistolary Cor-
respondence are requested to bring to the adjournment of
this Meeting an Epistle thereto. comprising as far as may be
the feelings of our minds upon this occasion. —

The Committee appointed to take into consideration
the Situation of the School Fund made the following report

Your Committee appointed yesterday, having
this Meeting met. And considered of the Subject of their
appointment. think proper to submit the following report to the
consideration of the Yearly Meeting Viz.

We think it a very desirable thing for a School to be
opend, & that as speedily as may be under the government
& Superintendence of the Meeting for Sufferings. That a Meeting
to have liberty to appropriate. the interest. that has arisen
or may arise on the original Subscription. And to recommend
Subscriptions for the purpose of Establishing & keeping up
a Yearly Meeting School, according to the original Consti-
tution & condition of said Subscriptions —

Signed on behalf of the Committee —
Newport 17th of 6m 1812. — David Buffum.

Which is accepted & recommended to the attention
of the Meeting for Sufferings —

c/n

An Extract from the Minutes of Salem Quarterly Meeting of 10 Month 1810. approving of the Public appearance in the Ministry of Amos Peasley was received & read,

Said meeting to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met according to adjournment —

The Committee appointed to prepare Epistles according to request presented the following viz!

To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings held to belong

Dear Friends

During our deliberations in this our large Annual Assembly, We have felt much concern & solicitude for the welfare of our brethren & Sisters, who, though not present with us at this season, are united in a common interest in those duties in which our future prosperity and individual happiness are essentially involved:— And our solicitude hath been for all our Members whether absent or present, that we may experience an increased concern to know our obedience keep pace with our knowledge; so shall we be favoured of the Lord, and witness our establishment to be upon that foundation which will be immovable. While we lament that there are many, who by neglecting a due attention to the Divine light graciously manifested in man, are suffering very great loss, we have comfort in believing, that there are others in each meeting, who are measurably given up to "seek the Lord for their portion, and the God of Jacob for the lot of their inheritance:" May these be encouraged to labour more fervently for an advancement in the precious cause of Truth, whereby they will be enabled, both by example and precept to encourage their brethren to a faithful discharge of their several duties.— One of these & a very important one, is that of attending religious meetings, a duty we owe to the great and be-

benevolent author of every favour we enjoy, both of a spiritual and temporal nature. How can we expect the continuation of his favours, if we do not feel love sufficient to be willing to bear a public testimony to his Name, by assembling with his people to render that homage and adoration which we owe to him. —

We have been seriously affected with the consideration that we are assembled at a season in which calamities of various kinds pervade the earth: some of which have nearly approached our borders; and from the prevailing commotions that appear to agitate the councils of nations others may be fearfully anticipated. We feel concerned to communicate to you some advice upon this subject from our brethren, at their late year by Meeting at Philadelphia to their members. viz.

"Having at the present Season renewedly felt that the testimony we hold against Wars & fightings is of very great importance, not only as it relates to ourselves and our country, but as it regards the great family of mankind; it has appeared a duty to address you on this very interesting subject. For a special purpose, we are separated from many others who profess the name of Christ, and if this purpose be, that we might shew forth by an innocent nonresisting spirit, the redeeming power of the principle of truth, we are placed in a very responsible station; and to fulfil the duties thereof we must carefully attend to the charge of our blessed Lord, "What I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch" — Here, as our own spirits resignedly submit to the influences of the Divine Spirit, we learn obedience to his blessed will; and until we experience this, we cannot expect to be as lights in the world, nor will it be possible to manifest in life and practice that we are made free from that Spirit which stands in opposition to the peaceable government of Christ.

By

By the testimony of those who have been thus instructed and disciplined, we find they could rejoice that they were counted worthy to suffer for his name: they knew him to be their all in all, and therefore as they were quickened and actuated by his Spirit all worldly objects and interests were held in a state of subserviency or secondary point of view. Such dedicated followers abiding in the meekness and gentleness of their heavenly leader, the tenour of their lives and doctrines bore a constant and firm testimony against the corruptions consequent upon the indulgence of the fallen will and wisdom of man. The apostle James who was fully acquainted with the root and origin of wars and fightings, thus clearly points it out — "From whence come wars & fightings? come they not hence even of your lusts". Among our worthy predecessors there were many witnesses to the truth of this testimony of the apostle, who knowing that this scourge of mankind, was an evil produced by a practical conformity to fallen nature, were fervently engaged to hold up the light of the Gospel as an infallible guide, and the only means whereby, we might individually experience the blessed reign of the Messiah in ourselves, and be thereby instrumental in hastening the coming of that day spoken of by the prophets Isaiah and Micah, when nation should not lift up Sword against nation, nor the people learn war any more. May friends then every where shew that they are walking by the same rule and minding the same thing; thus strength will be experienced to keep upon the immovable foundation, the corner stone elect and precious which God hath laid in Zion".

In the present agitation of the public mind, when the peace and prosperity of our country, with the calamities and horrors of war, appear to be suspended, as it were in an even balance it highly behoves us as a people, to be particularly on

on our guard against the insinuating nature of the Spirit of party and if any upon a careful examination, discover that from this or any other cause, or however unintentionally they have placed their weight, however small, in the balance against our peaceable profession and testimony we tenderly and affectionately entreat them to make a solemn pause.—

And dear young Friends, we wish it were possible to convey to your minds a sense of the fervent solicitude we feel on your account: for your our petitions are frequently offered that you may become so deeply sensible of the excellence of a life of virtue and piety, as individually to adopt the noble resolution.— "Let others do as they may as for me, I will serve the Lord."— We are very sensible that the allurements of vice & folly, under many fascinating forms, are continually besetting your paths: we tenderly sympathize with you herein, and there are who would willingly be led into suffering for you, could it effect your emancipation from every hurtful bondage.

But as you are disposed to seek after Divine assistance you will experience an overcoming; and we trust there are amongst you, who will yet evince that the testimonies given us to bear are dear to them. The time will soon arrive when their support will depend upon you; and let us entreat you to consider, that by living conformably to the pure precepts of Christianity you will appear amongst men with that dignity of character, which no qualification independent of them can confer, and will enjoy that happiness which can be derived from no other source, even the happiness resulting from a life useful to your cotemporaries and acceptable in the Divine sight.—

In the love of the Gospel, we salute you.

And are your friends.—

Which

Which was read & approved the Clerk is directed to forward thereof to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings —

A certificate expressive of the cordial acceptance of the gospel labours of our friend Susanna Horne with whose company we were last year favored, directed to the Monthly Meeting of Tottenham, England, was approved & Signed by the Clerk. —

The Committee to prepare Epistles to the corresponding Yearly Meetings presented Essays to the Yearly meetings of London. Philadelphia. Newyork. Baltimore Virginia & North Carolina. which being read with some some alteration, were approved —

Endorsements expressive of our satisfaction in the company & services of our friends Elijah Hoag. David Sands. Matthew Franklyn. Fry Willis. Nicholas Batty, Nehemiah Norris and James Hazard, were, with a similar minute for our friend Lima Willis. approved herein and signed by the Clerk. —

This Meeting having been favoured to transact the business that came before it. in brotherly love & harmony, Under a grateful sense where of concludes.— to meet again at this place next year— if the Lord permit

Samuel Rodman Clerk

From our Yearly Meeting held on Rhode Island for New England from the 14th. of the 6th month to the 17th of the same 1812 inclusive

To the next Yearly Meeting of friends in London

Dear friends

Impressed as we humbly trust, with a lively feeling of gratitude & love to the author of our being and of every blessing, under a sense of his continued superintending care and the repeated merciful visitations of his divine Grace in our hearts. We affectionately salute you; desiring your prosperity & enlargement in all things tending to the advancement of the kingdom of his dear son Christ Jesus, in the hearts of his children & people.

Your acceptable epistle of the 5th month last year has been read in this meeting to our satisfaction & encouragement.— The remembrance of distant brethren in the love & fellowship of the Gospel, contributes much to the more effectual turning of the attention of our minds to that fountain of grace and truth; at which we are, however distant from each other, at seasons mercifully permitted to drink together; and whence all our streams of refreshment and consolation flow.—

In deliberating upon the various concerns of Society, which have come before this meeting, we have been favoured through the presiding influence of the great head of the Church to labour harmoniously for the removal of deficiencies and the advancement of the Church in the way of truth and righteousness; and an engagement has been witnessed, by a number of brethren, to have our attention weaned from the unprofitable attachments & pursuits of this world and called home to the supreme object of our love and regard, the rock of our strength and preservation, and only sure place of refuge and protection from the storms and tempests which may threaten us from without or within.—

How

How deeply is it to be lamented that the many blessings bestowed upon our highly favoured Countries have not produced more suitable returns of obedience gratitude and love: we might then have had a comfortable foundation to hope that the chastisements which now appear to be suspended over us might be averted by the over ruling hand of a merciful and omnipotent Creator. Our Meeting has been large being attended by many of the rising generation, the company and solid deportment of a number of whom has been very acceptable — We repeat the salutation of our endeared love. And are your friends and brethren —

Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting
by Sam.l Rodman. Clerk —

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments from the 14.th of the 6m to the 17.th of the same inclusive 1812 —

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

Your acceptable epistle of the 4.th Month last was duly received and read to our edification.

We have at this time been made sensible that it is only under the influence of that quickening power which maketh alive, that we are enabled usefully to address you, and by which every living member of the Church militant is baptized into that State of Suffering which purifieth and qualifieth the servants rightly to fulfil the duties required or made known by Jesus Christ our Lord —

And

And by which we are made helpful to each other in this our epistolary correspondence. And may none of the visited children of the Lord ever rest in the first work of religious exercise, but may these continue to follow our holy leader & shepherd of the flock through the many operations of his holy spirit for their refinement. For it is declared that though there is a difference in the operations yet it is the same Spirit that worketh all in all that we may in all things be made conformable to his blessed will. — We have had to lament the state of some who have begun well, but for want of faithful dedication, and an enduring of the cross of Christ, we have reason to fear have settled down in a state of ease. — The beloved youth are brought near to us at this time, and we feel an earnest solicitude of mind that they may have a proper and guarded education: And for their present and future welfare — that they may now in the morning of life chuse the Lord for their portion. and the God of Jacob for the lot of their inheritance. Now while their minds may be compared to the young & tender plants. — We rejoice to find that a living concern still prevails among you on this very important subject, and are sensible that it is encouraging to us to do all we can to prepare the minds of children under our care, and to train them up in the way they should walk that when they are old they may not depart from it — We notice with satisfaction that your tender feelings are yet alive and careful to embrace the clear openings of duty to espouse the cause of our oppressed brethren held in bondage, — Our minds have at this time been renewedly called to consider their situation. and believe we stand ready when way may open in the line of duty to appear on their behalf — With the salutation of love

We conclude. Your friends & brethren. —
Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting.
By Sam.l Rodman Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting of friends held at Newport
on Rhode Island for New England by adjournments
from the 14th of the 6th Month to the 17th of the same inclusive

To the next Yearly Meeting of friends to be
held at Newyork. —

Dear Friends

. . Another year hath revolved since our
last salutation of love in this epistolary way, and by the
continued goodness of our great and merciful preserver. We
are once more gathered together, where we trust a living
remnant are met, whose hearts can at times feelingly say
Come brother, come Sister "Let us go up to the mountain of
the Lord to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach
us of his ways. And we will walk in his paths. —

Ah! Friends were such the uniform tenor of our
lives. And did this holy disposition more generally prevail
how joyous — how solemn — would be occasions like these!
We should then no more have to complain of neglect in
presenting our bodies, a living sacrifice before the Lord
which is our reasonable service; nor would there be cause
to mourn at the want of unity and love. In this situation
would the members of the church militant be as the
tabernacles of Israel " As the valleys spread forth — as
the gardens by the river's side, as the trees of Lign-Aloes
which the Lord hath planted, and as Cedar trees, beside
the waters? — Surely might it then be said — "There is no

en-

enchantment against Jacob neither any divination against Israel; according to this time shall it be said of Jacob and of Israel, what hath god wrought?!—

Times like the present allow of no relaxation in any part of our duties may: do they not call loudly for greater dedication of heart in humble obedience to every discovery of the divine will?— We hear of pestilence and famine of wars and rumors of wars, and Omniscience only knoweth how far afflictive dispensations may be permitted to extend.— May we one and all seek to have our dwelling near the immovable rock whereunto the righteous flee and find safety:— then shall our hearts be animated with the assurance, as the love of God becomes the ruling principle in our minds, that all things will work together for good; and we shall be enabled to say with the Apostle— "Neither death nor life nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth shall be able to seperate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord".— This Meeting, in which we have received your affectionate Epistle of the present year, hath been large, the several sittings whereof have been attended with the precious evidences of divine regard, and in the transactions of the weighty affairs that have come before us, there hath been a prevailing of brotherly harmony.— We notice the mortality which hath assailed your borders the sound of which hath reached our ears— And although we may have it in our power to impart but little comfort to the afflicted, yet we feel a disposition to sympathize in their sorrows, and to mourn with those that mourn.— May those who have had to witness the painful dissolution of endearing ties, be fer-

vented

supported by that power which bindeth up the broken hearted, and gives the eye of faith to look with resignation on every affliction, as wisely permitted to wean from the love of transitory things; that our hopes and affections may be centred in those realms where the redeemed all meet — where "the Lamb shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." —

With the Salutation of love, we remain. —

Your Friends & brethren —

Signed by direction & on behalf of the meeting. By

Sam. Rodman Clerk —

to the Meeting this Year —

From our Yearly Meeting of friends held on Rhode Island for New England from the 11th of the Sixth month to the 17th of the same inclusive 1812.

To the next Yearly Meeting of friends to be held at Baltimore.

Dear Friends.

You were very affectionately remembered in our remembrance upon reading your epistle of 10th month last. — And upon considering the importance of our thus assembling together to watch over, and endeavor to promote the welfare of the churches, our minds have been exercised with solicitude that we may be mutually engaged in a diligent attention to the pointings of truth, whereby we may all witness an increase of strength, be enabled to dig deep, and know our foundation laid upon Christ Jesus the rock of ages, herein we shall experience our obedience to keep pace with our knowledge

And

and ability will be given to labor successfully in the church of Christ. — An increase of such laborers we know is much wanted in our part of the vineyard, wherein we find on viewing the state of society many deviations from the principles of our profession, and much want of dedication to the service of him, who hath mercifully called us to be heirs of his salvation. — We are glad to find that your repeated labor and concern for the welfare of our fellow men of the African race, hath lately produced some relief to those who are by law entitled to freedom, and desires are excited in us at this time that you may be renewed in your concern to avail of every occasion put into your power of extending to that oppressed people the common rights of humanity. — It is also acceptable to us to learn that the effect of your concern for the welfare of the Indians hath been such as to encourage you to persevere in the pursuit of that interesting object, and likewise that our prevailing testimony against the improper use of spirituous liquors is progressing with you. — It is cordial to our feelings to find the subject proposed with you of establishing a new Yearly Meeting North West of the Ohio, has claimed much deliberate consideration, and while our sympathy is excited towards our friends whose lots are cast in that distant land, we cannot but view it an important subject in which the future welfare of our society is much involved, and which requires great necessity to warrant, and great wisdom to decide. And we hope you will be favored with ability to determine it according to the mind of truth which will eventually be for the advancement of its cause —

With the salutation of love we remain. Your friends & brethren. Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting,

By Sam^l Rodman. Clerk

to the Meeting this year.

From our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode-Island for New England by adjournments from the 11th. of the Sixth Month to the 17th. of the same inclusive 1812.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia

Dear Friends

Through the continued extension of the goodness of our Heavenly Father, we have been enabled once more to meet together to transact the important concerns of this part of his family. — This our annual Assembly hath been large, wherein we have renewed confirmation in the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in witnessing afresh that love by which it works to be graciously vouchsafed, wherein we have been made glad in each other and strengthened together. — In the consolation which we have derived from your acceptable epistle, which we received at a late period of this Meeting, as also from those of our brethren both in Europe and on this Continent, we have had to beheld the excellence of brotherly love diffusing itself through the medium of a mutual correspondence in which we have renewedly felt the salutation of love to flow towards you at this season. — In taking into view the state of Society as exhibited in the accounts which we have received from our subordinate meetings, we have painfully to discover that there are some who are making profession of the blessed truth, who walk not conformable to its dictates on their own minds, on which occasion many of us have been deeply exercised into a solemn engagement that Zion may again be restored to her ancient Simplicity & purity, that every defilement both from within and without may be removed from the camp of the Lords people every where. — This you are sensible brethren can only be

effected by the opening of the Lords hand and our submitting to the one baptism which cleanseth the inner man. And notwithstanding it is the Lords own work, much is incumbent on the watchmen who stand upon the walls much may they contribute by and through the qualifying influence of pure love towards the effecting of so desirable an object, as that of putting away iniquity from Israel.

The most important missing is that can attract the attention of a body like this. and which hath equality in view the his honor and the well being of his people. —

But notwithstanding there are some as we have hinted who fall short of keeping faithfully to the law & testimony of our holy lawgiver, We have to admire his goodness in covering over the streams of his love at times & seasons on his children - on his exercised children, who have sometimes, as between the South and the West, whereby some are strengthened again to step forward, and to make offerings to the praise of his name, And we trust that we have cause to believe that the Lord is increasing his visitations to the people of this, our land, whereby divers have of late been made willing by the efficacy of his love to step forward in the way of self denial, and bear testimony with us to the sufficiency of that divine principle of Light and life, which comes by Christ Jesus. — That those who have thus aroused the cause of truth and righteousness on the earth wherever their lots may be cast, may be preserved by the mercies of the Lord, that he would seek them as within his holy munition and be their shield in the day of battle is our fervent desire. — With the salutation of love, We remain. Your friends & brethren

Signed by direction & on behalf of the Meeting.

By Sam.l Roman Clerk.

From our Yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island by adjournments from the 14th. of the 6th Month to the 17th. of the same inclusive 1812.

To the next Yearly Meeting of Friends in North Carolina.—

Dear Friends

Your affectionate epistle of last year has been duly received; And it is pleasant to us to find, that although our last had not come to hand: you are disposed to keep up an epistolary correspondence, which we hope will continue to be found mutually refreshing to our minds.—

Notwithstanding the Accounts from our subordinate Meetings report many marks of weakness, we see no reason for dismay to the diligent and faithful in the Lords vineyard but on the contrary, have abundant cause of encouragement to "walk by the same rule and mind the same thing" whereto any of us have attained.— "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand."— "Seest thou a man diligent in his business"— he shall stand before Kings".—

In a day like the present, when the Earth is trembling with commotions, may it be our fervent engagement to dig deep; that our foundation may be on the rock of ages: then whatever may be our allotment, whether we partake of private affliction, or be sharers in public calamity, we shall lie down in safety, under the consoling assurance "the Lord knoweth them that are his".— May the beloved Youth both among you and us be more and more favored to see the beauty of an early dedication of their hearts to piety and virtue; that the noblest of all causes— that of Truth and righteousness may never want advocates; nor a

band

kind to whom may be applicable. "This people have I formed for myself — they shall show forth my praise." —

We notice your continued concern in favor of the oppressed African race; and though but little progress may appear to have been witnessed, we hope that all proper exertions will continue to be made on behalf of suffering humanity, and that in due time they will be crowned with success. —

This our annual assembly hath been large; and in the several sittings thereof we have been favored with renewed evidence that the Shepherd of Israel is still near: and have been favored to transact the weighty affairs which have come before us in that harmony that cements the brotherhood. —

The subject of a similarity in our discipline hath long claimed our attention — ours hath been revised within a few years, with a view to that object, as far as circumstances will admit particularly as regards the rights of members. — Our Clerk will be directed to forward you a copy. —

With the salutation of love we remain, Your friends and brethren. —

Signed by direction and on behalf of the Meeting.

By Sam.l Rodman, Clerk
to the Meeting this year

1813

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island, beginning with public meetings for worship at Newport and Portsmouth on first day the 13th day of 6th month 1813 and at Newport on second day morning the 14th for Church Discipline.

Accounts being received from our several Quarterly Meetings the representatives therein named are for Rhode Island, Jonathan Dennis, Sylvester Wicks, Benjamin Mead, James Smith and John Wilbour. Salem Ricard Dame, Matthew Purinton, William Dean, and Enoch Reed. Sandwich, Weston Rowland, James Tucker, Abiel Akin, Matthew Barney, Stephen Rogers, Libni Gardner and Jame Macy, Falmouth, Moses Sleeper, Moses Starkey, Thomas Jones, and Solomon Boyce, Smithfield, Thomas Greene, Jonathan Fry, Royal Southwick & Thos. Aldrich who are all present.

We have at this time read the printed general Epistle from the Yearly Meeting in London, as also the corresponding Epistle from that Yearly Meeting, with others from those of Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia and North Carolina which excited much feeling sensibility & sympathy affording us both satisfaction and encouragement, and we appoint, Thomas Rowland William Almy, William Dean, Thomas Arnold, Abraham Shearman Jr. Lewis Clark, Micajah Collins and William Rotch Jr to prepare essays of Epistles to those Yearly Meetings.

We appoint Benjamin Mead, Joseph Davis, Walter Allen Matthew Barney, Moses Starkey and Isaac Hacker to audit our accounts with the Treasurer, report the State thereof together with the sum necessary to be raised for the ensuing year and also to propose a Treasurer.

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting having proposed that their meeting be divided, and that a Quarterly Meeting be

established at Vassalborough consisting of the Monthly Meetings of Vassalborough, Sidney and Leeds. We appoint Paul Rogers, John Carey, John Bailey, Moses Brown, Samuel Hall, Joseph Harris, Benjamin Freeborn, Matthew Purinton, David Buffum and William Rotch, to consider the subject and report their judgment thereupon at a future sitting of this Meeting.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The Representatives having proposed William Rotch Jr for Clerk and Obadiah H Brown for Assistant, they are appointed accordingly for this year.

We have at this season had the company of our beloved friends Abel Thomas with a certificate from Monallen Monthly Meeting in Pennsylvania, Enoch Dorland with one from Oswego Monthly Meeting & from Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting, Henry Hull with one from Stamford Monthly Meeting and Benjamin Mitchell with one from Nine Partners Monthly Meeting, all which Certificates were read and their company and services of those friends were acceptable to us.

The company of our friend Jacob Willits with a certificate from Jericho Monthly Meeting is also acceptable to us.

Having likewise the company of our beloved friends Elizabeth Coggeshall and Ann Shipley with certificates from New York Monthly Meeting, their company and services have been very acceptable to us.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting informs they have approved the public appearances in the Ministry of John Wilbur and the appointment of Mary Spencer Benjamin Hazard & Sarah Hazard to the place of Elders.

Salem Quarterly Meeting that they have approved the Ministry of Enoch Page & Hannah Purinton and the appointment of Hannah Collins and Ruth Osborne to the place of Elders.

Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting that they have approved the appointment of Stephen Nichols Mary Fry, Samuel Tyler and Ezra Briggs to the place of Elders and of the Ministry of Judiah Person.

Smithfield Quarterly Meeting that they have approved the appointment of Enoch Crook David Smith & Hannah Hoben to the place of Elders.

Each of the Quarterly Meetings have informed that they have directed their several proportions of Stock, paid to our Treasurer.

The Queries were read with answers from all our Meetings, and a feeling concern was excited thereby, on account of several deficiencies reported by them, and some pertinent remarks made with a view to encourage friends to diligence in the attendance of all our religious meetings, faithfulness in maintaining our testimony against war, and to an increasing care in promoting moderation and temperance, particularly guarding against the improper use of Spirituous Liquors, which appears in the present day to be promotive of much distress and calamity in the World.

By said answers it appears that our meetings for worship and discipline have been generally attended by most friends, but too much neglect is manifested in the attendance of mid-week meetings, some instances of sleeping in most of our meetings, on which account little labour appears to have been bestowed. Love and Unity appears to be generally maintained and detraction guarded against, and care has been taken to end differences when they have appeared.

Many appear concerned to bring up their Children in the simplicity of Truth, guarding them from reading pernicious books & corrupting conversation, and are good examples themselves, but there are some who are neglectful of their duty herein. The Scriptures appear to be frequently read in friends families, & the friendly appear careful as to the use of Spirituous Liquors yet their use does not appear wholly confined to medicine. The unnecessary frequenting Taverns and places of public resort generally avoided, moderation & temperance mostly preserved and the necessities of the poor attended to. There appears no infringement of our testimony against priests wages, and our testimony against war appears to be well maintained, except in a few instances indulging an unwarrantable curiosity in being spectators at Military exercises, for which some are appear to have been esteemed. Most friends are careful to settle their accounts & live within the bounds of their circumstances, yet a few instances have occurred of a tardy & untimely performing promises & paying debts.

& omen appears not prevalent to deal timely with offenders and where necessary to pass judgment according to Discipline.

Smithfield Quarterly Meeting having informed that Folger Pope had appealed from the judgment of that meeting in confirming the judgment of Baltaw Monthly Meeting, and he requesting to prosecute his appeal We appoint Richard Mitchell Joseph Burke, Benjamin Shad, Richard Dame, Cornelius Howland, David Kelly, Rufus Davis, Marcus Pierce, Moses Slocum Nathan Mowry Ezekiel Hoyt and Ezra Collins to hear the parties in question examine into the conduct and proceedings, and report their judgment to a future sitting.

Salem Quarterly Meeting having informed that Silvanus Newhall had appealed from their judgment, and he appearing We appoint William Peckham, Jonathan Congdon, Benjamin Matt Weston Howland, Robert Brayton, Daniel Bowerman, Thomas Davis, Augustus Lapham, Moses Buffington Jr. Royal Southwick Thomas Greene, & Joseph Collins, to hear the parties in Question examine into the proceedings and report their judgment to a future sitting.

Adjourned to the 3 hour tomorrow afternoon
15th day met by adjournment.

The following report was received —

We your Committee on the proposition from Falmouth for a division of that Quarterly, having met and after having the subject further opened by friends from that Meeting, and duly considered the same, it is our judgment that it will be safe to accede to their proposition for one year, and that a Committee be appointed to visit each of the said Meetings at their first sitting after the division and report to next Yearly Meeting their judgment of the propriety of its continuance. Signed on behalf of the Committee John Casey Sarah Barnard.
Dated 15 18 6

Which having had an deliberate consideration is approved and Vassalborough Quarterly Meeting is hereby Authorized to be holden at Vassalborough River Meeting house on the fifth day before the second Sixth day in the 11th month next also on the same day in the 2nd and 9th months following and on the fifth day before the last Sixth day in the 5th month next, to consist of the Monthly Meetings of Vassalborough, Sidney and Leeds and the members of the Meeting of Ministers and Elders in those Meetings are also authorized to hold a Quarterly Meeting

at the same place and on the fourth day preceding the Quarterly Meetings. And appoint Paul Rogers, Hezekiah Collins Enoch Reed William Almy Sylvester Wickes, David Anthony, Thomas Arnold Walter Allen and Wm Rotch Jr to attend the Quarterly Meeting of Falmouth in the eleventh month next and also the opening of the Quarterly Meting at Vassalborough and report to our next Yearly Meting their judgment of the propriety of the continuance of this arrangment.

And it is concluded that Falmouth Quarterly Meeting heretofore held at Vassalborough in the Ninth month be next year held at Falmouth at the same time.

Salem Quarterly Meeting inform that Daniel B Alley and Abigail Alley had appealed from the judgment of their meeting, The appellants tho not present having claimed the right of being heard by their written statement, We thereupon appoint Sylvester Wickes, William Almy, Thomas Rowland, David Buffum, Jethro Mitchell John Bailey Thomas Greene, Samuel Thurston, Josiah Howe, Moses Sleeper Richard Mowry and Walter Allen, in conjunction with the committee appointed by the Womens Meeting, to investigate the statement they have made in writing, hear the Committees representation on behalf of Salem Quarterly Meting and report their judgment at a future sitting.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last year were read to the satisfaction of this Meeting, And the same friends are continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year except Obadiah Williams, removed and Richard Mowery released by his request. And Jonathan Dennis and Royal Southwick are appointed in addition thereto.

The following Report was received. Viz.

Agreeable to appointment on the appeal of Sylvanus Newhall from the Judgment of Salem Quarterly Meeting, We have met the said Sylvanus and the Committee of the Quarterly Mtg and after a full hearing of the parties, and deliberately considering thereon, are united in Opinion that the judgment of said Quarterly Meeting be confirmed

signed by all the Committee

which being read and solidly considered is accepted and the judgment of Salem Quarterly Meeting is accordingly confirmed.

Adjourned to the 3rd hour tomorrow afternoon.

16th Day met by adjournment.

The following report was now made - Viz.

"We your Committee have settled our accounts with the Treasurer and find in his hands Two hundred twenty five Dollars and nine Cents - We think it expedient to raise Eight hundred Dollars for the ensuing year, And propose Obadiah M Brown for Treasurer - on behalf of the Committee

Dino 15. 1813 Isaac Hacker - Moses Starkey -

Agreeable thereto we appoint Obadiah M Brown Treasurer for the ensuing year - and recommend to the several Quarterly Meetings to raise the following proportions of eight hundred Dollars for this meetings Stock and forward the same to our Treasurer - Viz Rhode Island $204.

Salem $108. Sandwich $377 Falmouth - 110

and Smithfield $68. "

The Committee upon the Appeal of Polly Page, not being prepared to decide upon the subject at this time are continued to report at our next Yearly Meeting.

The following report was received Viz.

We the Committee appointed to consider the Appeal of Daniel B. Alley and Abigail Alley, from the Judgment of Salem Quarterly Meeting in confirming the Judgment of the Monthly Meeting of Weare, in denying them the right of membership in our Society, after having carefully examined the circumstances, as exhibited by the Appellants defence, and the representation of the Quarterly Meetings Committee, are united in opinion that the Judgment of Salem Quarterly Meeting ought to be confirmed - Dino 16. 1813. Asher Hatchell David Buffum, Thomas Greene, John Bailey, Samuel Thurston, Richard Mowry, Ebenezer Wickes, Josiah Howe, Moses Sleeper, Walter Allen, William Hiney, Thomas Howland, Sarah Otis, Hephzibah Harris, Elizabeth Smith Susanna Freeborn, Mary Williams, Abigail Arnold, Lydia Hussey - Which is accepted and the Judgment of Salem Quarterly Meeting in confirming the Judgment of Weare Monthly Meeting is hereby confirmed and Enoch Page and Enoch Brede are appointed to inform them thereof.

This Meeting having at this time as well as at a previous sitting been deeply exercised with the consideration of the prevalence

of the Spirit of war in our Land, so inconsistent with the peaceable Spirit, which we believe is the foundation of all true Christianity, and feeling at this time desirous that we may be enabled to hold up the Standard of Truth as respects this precious testimony to our Government, We appoint William Almy, Daniel Anthony, John Bailey Elisha Thornton, Moses Brown, John Casey, Thomas Arnold, Clark Rodman, David Buffum, Moses Shepherd Micajah Collins and William Rotch Jr. candidly to consider the Subject and if way open prepare an address upon the occasion and present to our next sitting.

Epistles to our brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia and Baltimore were read and approved.

We adjourn to the 8th hour tomorrow morning.

2nd day met by adjournment

Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of New York, Virginia and North Carolina were read and approved.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The Committee appointed yesterday having prepared an address directed to the President, Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled, it was read approved and directed to be signed by the Clerk, who is also directed to forward Copies to each branch of the National Legislature.

It having been represented to this Meeting in the morning that within Falmouth Quarterly Meeting four or five Meeting houses are about to be built, and also that from their circumstances some assistance would be acceptable, to enable them to accomplish them in due season, whereupon a few friends were named to receive such aid as friends present were disposed to give, The Committee now report that five hundred & Sixty eight Dollars 50/100 have been subscribed, which is requested to be paid to Moses Shepherd, to be disposed of according as the Quarterly Meeting of Falmouth may direct towards building those houses.

Having through the several sittings of this Meeting been favoured with the quieting influence of Divine Love, and enabled to transact the affairs which came before us with much brotherly love and harmony, we conclude intending to meet again on this Island next year if the Lord permit.

Signed in and on behalf of said Meeting

Wm Hatch Jr Clerk

To the President, Senate, and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress assembled.

The religious Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers, met in this Annual Assembly on Rhode-Island, respectfully represent:

That during our deliberations upon the religious concerns of our Society, the great object of which is to promote the cause of Righteousness on the earth, our minds have been affected with deep and serious consideration upon the present unnatural calamitous War in which our once happy country is involved.

And although it is well known, that a fundamental principle of our Faith leads us to believe that War of every kind is unlawful to us, yet permit us to remark, what we consider very interesting to all who profess the christian name, that the introduction of the gospel dispensation was hailed by the angelic host, with "Peace on earth; good will to men"... And by our gracious Redeemer it was pronounced, "Blessed are the Peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God."

We have with great unanimity concurred in the belief, that it is our religious and civil duty to address you at this time, and most respectfully to solicit your reconsideration of the effects and consequences of the present unhappy War, upon the religious, moral and temporal prosperity of the citizens of our beloved

country; and to entreat, that you will be pleased to omit no opportunity of sheathing the sword, even during the pending negociations, and to restore to our nation the blessings of peace.

We feel emboldened in thus addressing you, from a consciousness that we love our country, that we feel deeply interested in its preservation and prosperity, and an very ardent desire that this, our power to promote its welfare. And under the consideration that it is "Righteousness that exalteth a nation," it is the solicitude of our hearts, that He who "ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will," may so influence your minds as to enable you unprejudicedly to feel the responsibility attached to your stations, that you may look after the counsel of His will, and be obedient thereunto; that thereby you may be instrumental in exalting the standard of Righteousness, to the hastening of that glorious period foretold by the Prophet wherein "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn War any more!"

Signed in and by direction of our said Meeting.
Dated at New Port, 1st of 6th Month, 1813.

William Rotch, Junr. Clerk

From our yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode-Island from the 13 day of 6 Mo. to the 17 of the same inclusive.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends

Having been favoured to meet again in our annual assembly, under a grateful sense of the sustaining influence of Him, who is the only Head and Ruler of his Church; in whom is our unity to consist; his important concerns, and in whom is our Fellowship with its members now

ever distant; we therein acknowledge and salute you, our
brethren beloved.

Your Epistle of last year to us, and that to the Church-
es in general, have been read in this meeting to our
comfort and edification, and the latter has been re-
published in order for distribution into all our families,
and we apprehend we may safely and truly express
our united and fervent desire, that your brethrin care and
concern therein, may be blessed to the effectual operation
upon the minds of many individuals, and the produc-
tion of a fruitful and abundant Harvest.

Upon examination into the state of society,
in the particular meetings under the immediate
superintendence and care of this meeting, although we
find many things to lament, and to awaken our con-
cern, to call to greater watchfulness and circumspection
in individuals, and a more lively and active discharge
of the duty and trust committed to the Church — yet,
we have the satisfaction to observe, that good order,
and the authority of meetings, is in general maintained,
that the Truth appears to spread and gain ground in
many places, and in most parts some addition have
been made to our society by convincement.

We deeply lament the extension of the
ravages of War; since the date of our last epistolary
correspondence, the effects of which in an addition to
their demoralizing influence, are to encrease the priva-
tions, the calamities and distresses under which many
of our fellow citizens in both Countries previously laboured.

In contemplating which in the present
instance; the visible darkness as to their true interest
and prosperity, which is perceived to cover many minds
inspired by the spirit of war and self exaltation, it
should endear to our hearts that divine principle, and
those precious testimonies by which we are called out
of this darkness, into a land of light, wherein we are
enabled to triumph the present scene of confusion and dis-
tress, and to have our minds elevated to a better hope,
and an end in object of a purer and more enduring

nature, as the sources of our happiness and
enjoyment, — even those which appertain to Life
Eternal.

"It is our fervent desire that the people of
present day, may see and experience the truth and ful-
filment of the declaration of Prophet, "Yea, with my
"Spirit within me will I seek thee early; for when thy
"judgements are in the earth, the inhabitants of the
"world will learn righteousness."

A concern has been manifested in this meeting
for the succour and assistance of such of our members,
as from their private circumstances or Local situation may
stand in need of the help of their brethren, as to out-
wards as well as Spiritual nourishment; And we
have reason to hope and believe that those who are
blessed with the means, will not be unmindful of
any additional calls of Charity, towards such as are or
may be under the peculiar pressure of the present
calamities in some parts of this Yearly Meeting.

In a feeling sense of that Love which out-
ward distance cannot diminish, or the cords thereof
be seperated by the sword, we again salute you
and remain your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf of said Meeting
by Robert Jones Clerk
to the Meeting this year

This meeting having in general terms during its sitting,
deeply affected with the consideration of our Country being
at this time involved in the direful calamity of war,
we have very unanimously concurred in an address
to our General Government, upon that subject.

From our Yearly Meeting for Ministers held on Rhode Island by adjournment from the 13th day of 6th month to the 15th of the same inclusive -

To the Yearly meeting of Friends in Philadelphia

Dear Friends

By the mercies of Heaven, to whose goodness we are indebted for every blessing enjoyed; we are again favoured to meet at the place where many of us have heretofore been refreshed in sweetly joining the celebration of that holy solemnity, whereunto the living members of the Church militant are at times gathered as with "one accord".

A measure of the same precious influence hath been witnessed among us at this time, under a sense of which, may we not reverently say with the Psalmist? "O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever".

In this day of commotion, wherein sorrows and trials are witnessed by many, may it be our united concern to dwell near the true source of help - the only sure place of safety. - To those who are thus exercised, the springs of earthly comfort fail, living waters of divine consolation will be opened: - and whatever may be the adversities that may in unerring wisdom be permitted to attend, yet let them remember "the Lord hath chosen Zion" - He will abundantly bless her provision" "He will satisfy her poor with bread". -

Your acceptable Epistle of the 4 mo. last has been received and read to our satisfaction - We hope your benevolent concern in endeavouring to civilize our fellow men of the Indian Tribes will continue to be attended with success. -

The welfare of our beloved Youth hath often been the frequent engagement of our minds, and the occasion of much deep solitude. - We believe there are many of the rising generation whose eyes have been opened to see the beauty of a life devoted to faithfulness, and to such we could willingly extend the word of encouragement - How delightful is the morning of life opening with the fair promises of usefulness! - How acceptable an early sacrifice! - Who is there that has not experienced an early dedication? Who does not with that from the first dawn of consciousness, he had witnessed straight steps to his feet in the path of Piety and Virtue - the path that leadeth to true honour and Peace?

We the salutations of love, we remain your friends and brethren. Signed on behalf of said Meeting. Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

1813. From our Yearly Meeting for New England held on Rhode Island by adjournment from the 13 day of 9 mo. to the 17 of the same (inclusive).

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in New York.

Dear Friends.

Your epistle of last month was truly acceptible to us, and so will every evidence of brotherly regard continue mutually to be, so long as we are concerned for our own and each others improvement in the knowledge of the truth, and in that obedience which as it keeps pace with knowledge, is rewarded by the fraternal regard of our Father who is in Heaven.

It is greatly to be regretted that the nations of the Earth should be so far drawn aside by the Spirit of Error as to exert their powers to injure and destroy one another — a temper and disposition so contrary both to the precepts and example of our blessed Lord who came not to destroy mens lives, but to promote peace on Earth and good will among men; and whose spirit is still graciously vouchsafed to all as a Leader and Guide and in all who believe and faithfully obey its gracious dictates will prove a Conductor to Peace and Happiness.

And we are desirous with you that the dear Youth may be thus faithfully choosing the Lord for their portion that they thereby may have a well grounded hope that the divine arm of Power will support them in all the conflicts which may be permitted to assail them — for the call to choose whom we will serve is indeed a loud one in this affecting season of trial and suffering.—

Our desire therefore, are for all, that we may yield obedience to the manifestations of the Fathers love — that the pure and peaceable principle of the Gospel may be universally adopted, and the nation

of the Earth learn War no more. — In this season of outward commotion our minds have been dipt into near Sympathy with those who from various circumstances are cut off from many of the Comforts of life — and we trust in the abounding of that love which is not confined within the narrow limits of our own Society, our concern hath extended to others not of this household; believing that the benevolent spirit of Christianity breathes health and preservation to all, —

With the salutations of love we remain your Friends and Brethren.

Signed in and on behalf of the Meeting
Wm Rotch Jr Clerk to the Meeting this year.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends to be held at Baltimore.

Dear Friends.

We cordially reciprocate your salutation of love conveyed to us in your truly acceptable Epistle of the 10th mo. last which was read in this meeting to our satisfaction and encouragement, and caused us anew to feel it a pleasant & brotherly to unite together in unity.

Although in reviewing the State of Society, as presented in the accounts from the several Quarterly Meetings ... our minds have been painfully exercised for the deficiencies that are but too apparent within our borders, we have felt encouraged, by a renewed persuasion, that there are still those among us who are striving to live in obedience to the precepts of the Gospel, and who are made willing faithfully to labour, with such as are found deviating from the testimonies of truth, in the spirit of that Charity which "suffereth long, and is kind." ... May these faithful labourers in the church both with you and with us, be encouraged to persevere through all the trials that await them; by the animating consideration, that as is their labour, so will be the reward of peace; and that they who turn many to righteousness, may shine as

to the Slave Trade and ever.

The present calamitous situation of this once highly favoured country, has brought us upon to deliberate upon the great importance of a faithful maintenance of our testimony against war; and a lively desire has been expressed by many friends, that our society may be concerned, as way may open for it, to hold up to the view of the nation, the foundation of this Christian testimony, and to show the utter inconsistency of war, with the precepts of that pure religion which breathes, throughout, "peace on earth and good will to men" — and that our members individually, may evince to the world, by their conversation &c., that they are truly afflicted to wear the profession, but are redeemed from all spirit, —

That being thus enabled to wash our hands in innocency; we may find amidst the commotions which agitate the world, a "refuge from the storm and a shadow from the heat"

The peculiarly heavy pressure of the times upon some districts within the limits of this Yearly Meeting, added to the unproductive harvests of the last year has excited our sympathy towards the oppressed suffering inhabitants thereof.

The information you have given us of the result of your deliberations upon the important concern of dividing your yearly meeting is acceptable to us, and we cherish a hope that the establishment of a yearly meeting eastward of the mountains, may not only tend to the convenience of the remoter body of friends in that extensive country, but also to promote the advancement of the precious cause of righteousness in the earth —

We sympathize with you, in your concern for the oppressed and afflicted situation of the African race; and tho' we have not recently appeared in our Collective capacity to the pleaders of their cause, we feel a willingness to embrace every opportunity which may occur, in which we can usefully contribute our aid to obtain a redress of their wrongs.

With the salutation of love we remain your friends and brethren. William Poole &c.

This year.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia.

Dear Friends.

In a degree of that love which rendered your epistle of the fifth month last truly acceptable to us, we again salute you, and inform that we have since divers times sat in the meet and to transact the affairs of the Church that have come before us, under a sense of the prevalence of divine love, and while in the examination of the state of the society, the minds of many have sorrowfully affected in observing the deficiencies that remain among some of our members, arising from a want of devotedness of mind to the duties of Truth, which from time to time have been clearly revealed as the only way, whereby they might know the will of the Lord to be done in them, still we have been comforted in believing that there are many who are bowed to the Law and to the Testimony and to the welfare of the Church as their choicest care, and that among the Youth there are those who have chosen the Lord for their portion, of whom we may hope there will be a succession of Standard bearers for the Truth, when those who have borne the weight of the Testimony shall be removed from works to rewards.

We have the subject that have occasioned to exercise our minds at this time, that of the present state of a great portion of mankind, and more particularly that of our own nation being involved in the awful calamities of war, has claimed no small share, and although silence in general in this country may not have appeared much in supporting our testimony against war, it behoveth us every where, to look to the Standard in our own minds, to be circumspect and consistent in conduct, keeping ourselves unspotted by avoiding to mix with the spirit of the world, which gendereth to strife, and evincing to others, that we are really under the dispensation of the Gospel, which breathes peace on Earth, good will to men. In this disposition of mind when affliction and calamity may surround and await us, we shall be favoured to find that safe hiding place to which the righteous flee and find safety.

and with the Apostle to examine the causes of war which the Apostle exhorts to examine from the lusts of men, may we deepen our sympathy to expand and our commiseration to excite a disposition in us, to mitigate the sufferings of those, whom in our bounds, who may by this evil be the most immediate objects of distress.

We are your Friends and Brethren
By direction of said meeting
William Rotch Jr Clerk
to the Meeting this year.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in North Carolina.

Dear Friends.

We have unanimously to acknowledge the overshadowing covering of divine favour on the present occasion in this our Annual Assembly, under a sense of which we have been enabled in a good degree to transact the affairs of the Church that have come before us in a spirit of harmony and brotherly love and condescension.

We have also at this time to acknowledge the receipt of your affectionate epistle of last year, the reading of which hath afforded satisfaction in observing your christian care to keep things in good order in your part of the Vineyard.

Your continued concern on account of the poor African Race hath excited a brotherly sympathy, both for you who are thus tried and exercised therein, as also for their sufferings; and desires our minds in our meetings, that so good and laudable a work may never be deserted so long as cause existeth in our Lands for this exercise.

A concern hath been spread over this meeting that Friends every where might individually strive to improve in themselves by a more circumspect walking and diligent attention to their own conduct. And as this becomes the case more and more, thro the help

of Ireland Testimonies, expressions will be taken
and the grate cause will be advanced. —

The non-attendance of mid-week
meetings hath particularly claimed the attention
of this meeting, on account of which apparent
deficiency in some instances too often happening,
some impression remarks were dropped by way
of encouragement that this important part of our
duty might be duly attended to. — The unnecessary
use of Spirituous liquors, with its pernicious effects,
was also held up to view against which it is hoped
that all members of our society may be guarded. —

In the present day of commotion and dis-
tress, our testimony against war, appears to be just
& well maintained; yet we have been sorrowful
to afford cause for finding from some of the reports that
a few of our Youth have unwarrantably indulged
an unwarrantable curiosity in attending public
exhibitions, as Spectators, which has excited the care
and attention of Friends.

With the salutations of Love, we remain
Your Friends and Brethren.
Signed in and by direction of said Meeting
William Polk, Clerk
To the Meeting this year.

1814

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New-England held on Rhode Island, beginning with Public Meetings for Worship at Newport and Portsmouth the 12th day of the 6th Month 1814, and at Newport on Second day morning the 13th for Church Discipline.

Accounts being received from our several Quarterly Meetings the representatives therein named are; for Rhode-Island, Daniel Anthony, John Wilbor, Jonathan Dennis, Daniel Brayton and Thomas Rowland;— Salem, Paul Rogers, Matthew Turington, William Dean, Richard Dane, Joshua Meader and Ezra Collins;— Sandwich, James Tucker, Samuel Rodman, David Kelly, Samuel Newell, Stephen Rogers and Robert Bratton;— Falmouth, Samuel Hallsey, William Cobb, Rufus Easton and Reuben Brackett;— Smithfield, Walter Allen, Gideon Mowry, Silas Earle and Jesse Eddy;— Vassalborough, Paul Taber, Joseph Howland and John Pope; who being called are all present except Reuben Brackett, whose attendance is prevented by sickness.

Our Friends, John Moore of Abington Monthly & Quarterly Meetings Pennsylvania, Daniel Haviland of Oblong Monthly meeting State of Newyork, and James Hallock of Marlborough monthly meeting and Nine Partners Quarterly meeting of the State aforesaid, attended this meeting with Certificates of unity with their ministry and visits: Also Nathan Harper of Abington monthly meeting, companion to our friend John Moore, Azariah Howland of Oblong monthly meeting & Leno Carpenter of Oswego

1814 Monthly Meeting State of Newyork with certificates from their respective meetings of their being elders in unity: — also James Peckham companion to Daniel Haviland from Oblong monthly meeting, Reuben Hones of Nine partners monthly meeting and James Austin of Ferrisburg monthly meeting with certificates respectively, all of which certificates were read to our satisfaction.

The London printed and written Epistle of last Year with Epistles from the yearly meetings of Philadelphia, Baltimore New York and North Carolina were read at this sitting, the salutary contents whereof confirm us in the judgment we have at times entertained, of the usefulness of this brotherly Epistolary correspondence and we appoint William Cobb, Thomas Hovland, Richard Dunn William Dunn, Thomas Arnold, William Brown jr. Benjamin Percival, Abraham Sherman jun.r, John Wilbor & William Almy to prepare Epistles of Epistles to those Yearly Meetings and those of Virginia & Ohio if way should open therefor.

The following Report was received and read viz.

We of the committee appointed to attend the opening of the Quarterly Meetings at Falmouth & Rhodeborough subsequent to the proposed division of Falmouth Quarterly Meting have attended to our appointment and sat with friends at those meetings & report that we do not find, but that, considering the various circumstances attending the case, it will be as well as it can be disposed of to confirm the division of said Quarterly Meeting conformable to the provisional arrangement which the Yearly Meeting has made for its division in the minute of our appointment. We however believe that it will contribute to the advantage of those Quarterly Meetings for the Yearly Meeting to continue an extension of their care towards them, by appointing

1814 a committee again to visit them and the monthly meetings of which they are composed, which we submit to the meeting

Wapsellborough 11th mo. 11th 1813 (Signed) Micajah Collins
Chas Bread
William Almy
Paul Rogers
Sylvester Hicks
Betsey Pierington
Mary B Allen
Walter Allen
David Anthony

Signed by 9 of the Committee

which report is accepted & approved; the division is accordingly confirmed, and Wapsellborough Quarterly Meeting is thereby established.

The following report was also received viz.

To the Yearly Meeting; —— Conformably to the directions of the Yearly Meeting, I forwarded in the Sixth month last three copies of the Yearly Meeting's address to our National Government; the one addressed to the President I have received no account of, those to the Senate and House of Representatives, I have been informed by the members to whom I enclosed them, that they were presented, read and ordered to lie on the table.

4th mo. 17th 1814 Signed William Hotch Junr.

Each of the Quarterly Meetings inform that they have directed their proportions of Stock paid to our Treasurer.

We appoint James Arnold, Isaac Hacker, Rufus Horton, Walter Allen, Benjamin Ory, Joseph Harris, Robert Bratton & John Pope to audit Accounts with the Treasurer & report the State thereof, Also the sum that in their opinion it may be necessary to raise for the ensuing year, and to propose a Treasurer for the ensuing Year.

1814

the addition of Vassalborough Quarterly Meeting and other circumstances rendering it necessary that there should be a new apportionment of the Stock now contemplated to be raised; the Representatives to this Meeting are required to make such an apportionment as they may agree upon, and present it to a future sitting of this Meeting.

Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting in their account informs that they have approved of the appointment of Jonathan Dennis, Lelitia Anthony, Sarah Green and Beriah Collins to the place of Elders.——— Salem Quarterly Meeting, that they have approved of the publick appearances in the ministry of Joseph Philbrick & William Brown, and of the appointment of John Hoag, Judith Beede, Isaac Bassett junr and Enoch Beede to the place of Elders.——— Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, that they have approved of the appointment of Mercy Gardner to the place of an Elder.——— Smithfield Quarterly Meeting, that they have approved of the publick appearances in the ministry of Alice Rathbun and of the appointment of Joanna Switched to the place of an Elder.——— Vassalborough Quarterly Meeting, that they have approved of the appointment of Cyrus Dean, Hannah Sampson and Mary Briggs to the place of Elders.

Adjourned to the Third hour this afternoon.

Afternoon. Met by Adjournment.

The Representatives proposed Samuel Rodman for Clerk and Obadiah Brown for Assistant Clerk, which having the approbation of the Meeting, they are accordingly appointed for the year ensuing.

⊕ Adjourned by Meeting. That they have approved of the appointment of Samuel F. Hussey & Esther Jones to the place of Elders.

1814 — Three of the Committee appointed upon the appeal of Folger Tope, referred from last year, being absent, and this meeting being informed of his request to have the absent members of the Committee replaced by the appointment of others, has consented thereto, and Joseph Whitbrick, Joseph Howland & Rufus Horton are appointed for the purpose, to proceed according to the minute of last Year and report at a future sitting.

The Queries with answers from the several Quarterly Meetings were whereby the State of Society was opened to the consideration of this Meeting. The deficiences from a faithful performance of religious duty thereby manifested, produced several seasonable remarks tending to invigorate our minds, and stimulate us to a stricter adherence to the precious testimonies of which we profess to be the supporters. Of the deficiences thus exhibited to our view, the too general expression of a langour, if not want of love and duly proportioned to the character it is our duty to manifest, has particularly attracted our attention; to the want of its more faithful cultivation may be attributed most of the defects apparent in the answers. —— A fear has also operated upon our minds that through inattention we are not advancing in our testimony against the improper use of Spirituous liquors. And from an apprehension that some friends might inadvertantly sell their grain to persons that distil it cautions were given and friends desired to be circumspect and guarded in their conduct in this respect. —— The State of Society so far as can be collected from the answers to the Queries bears so near a resemblance to the record of last Year; with the exception that there is no complaint of friends indulging an unwarrantable curiosity in being Spectators at Military exercises, and of information now received from one Quarterly Meeting of a few instances of members (mostly minors) sailing in vessels prepared for defence, in which

1814 care is taken to support our precious testimony against war; that we refer for the present general State of Society to the Summary of last year.

Certificates were received from the Womens meeting in behalf of our friends. Mary Varney from Starksborough monthly and Ferrisburg Quarterly Meetings, Ruth Mott her companion from Ferrisburg, monthly meeting, and Deborah Howland from Oblong monthly meeting which were read to our satisfaction.

Adjourned to the fourth hour to-morrow afternoon.

14th of the month, Met by adjournment

The following report was received viz.

We the Committee appointed to settle the Treasurer's Accounts report that we have settled the same, and find in his hands four hundred & twenty four dollars & twenty four cents. We recommend raising the sum of four Hundred Dollars to supply the treasury for the year ensuing, and propose Obadiah. A. Brown as treasurer.

Signed on behalf of the Committee

Isaac Harker

New port 14th of 6th m: 1814

Agreeably to which we appoint Obadiah A Brown treasurer for the year ensuing, the approve of four Hundred Dollars being raised for the ensuing year; which the representatives according to appointment have proportioned as follows, Rhode-Island Quarterly Meeting $120,— Salem, $60,— Sandwich, $154, Smithfield, $40; Falmouth $14 & Sufsalborough $12, which those Meetings are desired to forward to the treasurer of this Meeting.

The Committee upon the appeal of Folger Pope presented the following report viz.

To the Yearly Meeting now sitting.

Agreeably to appointment we have met Folger Pope and the Quarterly Meetings Committee in the case of his appeal from the judgment of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting,

1814 and after a full hearing of the parties, are of the opinion that the judgment of said Quarterly Meeting ought to be confirmed

	Joseph Barker	David Kelly	Joseph Philbrick
Newport	Richard Mitchell	Russell Davis	Rufus Horton
14th of 4m 1814	Benjamin Slade	Richd Lame	Joseph Howland
	Cornelius Howland	Moses Sleeper	Ezra Collins

Which being now fully considered is accepted, and the judgment of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting in their confirmation of the proceedings of Bolton Monthly Meeting relative to him is hereby established.

An epistle from the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia was read to our satisfaction and comfort.

The record of the doings of the Meeting for Sufferings for last Year were read, and the satisfaction of this meeting therewith expressed; as also with the continuation of the same friends to constitute a Meeting for the Year ensuing.

This Meeting having obtained information by the reading of the minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings that a suitable lot for the erection of buildings to accommodate a Yearly Meeting School, containing about 43 Acres, in the vicinity of Providence has been offered for that purpose by our friend Moses Brown to this Yearly Meeting, — and the Meeting for Sufferings having satisfied themselves through the report of a committee of their appointment that the lot affords a pleasant and healthful situation to erect suitable buildings upon for this desirable object, which has occasionally for many years occupied the serious attention of this meeting, — and feeling at this time a renewed engagement for the guarded education of our Youth, a very general agreement is manifested that the time has arrived wherein it may be entered upon with a better prospect of accomplishing the benevolent design, than

1811 has presented at any former period. The present amount of the fund subscribed for this purpose with its interest is upwards of $6000, which is considered inadequate to meet the expense which will attend the erection of the buildings and to defray the other expenses of the institution; We therefore recommend to friends to aid the present fund by subscription in their freedom, and forward to the Meeting for Sufferings an account of the sums, that they may be qualified to act herein. — We tenderly exhort friends to be liberal in their subscriptions according to the means afforded them, remembering that we are only Stewards of the goods we possess, that we hold them by a very uncertain tenure, and that a righteous and benevolent disposition of a part of them may call down a blessing upon the remainder.

The Clerk is desired to forward copies of this minute to the several Quarterly Meetings.

Adjourned to the 10th hour to-morrow morning.

13th of the Month, Met by adjournment.

Epistles to our brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, Newyork, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina & Ohio, were read and approved, which the Clerk is directed to transcribe, sign & forward, to them respectively, in behalf of this Meeting.

Adjourned to the fourth hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, Met by adjournment.

The further consideration of the intimation contained in the report of the committee that attended the opening of Yarmouth, and Wellsborough Quarterly Meetings, relative to the appointment of another committee to attend those meetings and the monthly meetings of which they are composed, is referred to our next Yearly Meeting.

Endorsements expressive of our satisfaction in the com-

1814 pany & services of our friends (Daniel Haveland, John Moon James Hallock, Nathan Hunter, Azriah Howland, Theo Carpenter, James Peckham, Reuben Howes, James Austin, Mary Varney, Ruth Mealy & Deborah Howland were approved and the Clerk is directed to sign them on behalf of this Meeting.

This Meeting, having been favored to transact the business that came before it in brotherly love & condescension, concludes under a grateful sense thereof, to meet again at this place next year if the Lord permit.

Samuel Rodman Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held in London.

Dear Friends

Under the tendering influence, as we trust, of a measure of that love, which emanating from the Great Head of the Church unites in him, all the branches of the Christian family, however widely separated, we again salute you, and acknowledge the receipt of your very acceptable Epistle of the last Year, directed to us, with your General Epistle of the same date. They have been read in this Assembly, and were truly cordial to our feelings, not only as an evidence of your continued remembrance, but of your unceasing concern for the maintainance of those testimonies, which by the aid of him who called and qualified his chosen Servants for the accomplishment of that work, were established through much suffering, by our common ancestors, and which it has now devolved upon us, their descendants, to maintain. — And we trust you will still feel encouraged to diffuse through the medium of an Epistolary correspondence with your Brethren, whether more nearly or

814 more remotely situated, those fruits of your love, and of your so-
licitude for their welfare, which we are confident in the persuasion,
have been blessed from year to year, to many minds, who have thence
been enabled to derive an increase of strength in the support of
those christian testimonies. —— Though the accounts which have
been transmitted to us by our several Quarterly Meetings, exhibit
deficiences in the performance of religious duties, and deviations
from our christian principles, we are encouraged in the belief
that there are those among us, to whom the maintenance of those
principles and of those testimonies is still precious, — who,
preferring the 'welfare of Sion to their chiefest joy' are endeav-
ouring in their various allotments, to promote her prosperity and to
enlarge her borders. —— And we are comforted in the belief, that
there are not a few among those, who by reason of their youth, have
not yet been thus actively engaged, whose minds through the in-
fluence of divine goodness, have been made willing to listen to
that voice, which 'distils as the dew, as the small rain upon the
tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass', — and who have
thus in the morning of their days been made sensible of the beauty
of holiness, and of the superior enjoyments of a life in unison
therewith. —— That the number of these among us, and with you
may be increased, is our sincere desire. On them must soon de-
volve the important duties which it has been the concern of
some of their elder Brethren, whose seats are from season to
season, becoming vacant in our assemblies, faithfully to discharge.

The interesting subject of the right education of Youth, has
claimed a share of our attention at this time — and given rise
to many pertinent and salutary remarks on the great responsi-
bility of parents and others to whom the education of youth
is confided, towards the precious objects of their charge.

While we have still to deplore the continuance of the

1814 unhappy contest in which our Governments are involved, we fervently desire that their counsels may be so influenced by the Spirit of him who came to bring "peace on earth and good will to men," as that we may ere long be restored, with the nations of Europe, to the interesting relations of amity and peace.— That having suffered in common with others nations of Christendom from the prevalence of a contrary Spirit, we may be enabled mutualy to enjoy, with grateful hearts an exemption from the calamities of war and its train of attendant evils. —That the dominion of the Prince of peace may be increasingly established 'from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.'

Your suggestion relative to the establishment of such a connexion between our different Yearly Meetings as may lead to the preservation of unity in doctrine and discipline, is entitled from its importance, to our serious consideration.

With the renewed salutation of our love we remain Your friends and Brethren.

Signed on behalf and by direction of said Meeting by

Samuel Rodman, Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle of the fourth month last, has been duly received, and in the fresh feeling of brotherly love we again cordially salute you. While thus engaged in the support of a correspondence which has often proved animating to many of our minds, we are renewedly brought to a sense of our dependence upon him, without whose gracious aid we can do nothing for his honour, and which can alone qualify us for his service. In this disposition of mind, which we trust hath had

1814 its prevalence at this season, the affairs of Society have passed in review, and through the goodness of Israel's Shepherd, whose mercies are new every morning, the weary exercised traveller, still finds abundant cause to "thank God and take courage".

Happy would it be for us, if in our several allotments, there was a more general engagement, to add to our faith, virtue, and to virtue knowledge — temperance — patience — godliness — brotherly kindness, and charity: — for if these things were more the object of individual pursuit, we should be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ: — We should indeed find these our assemblies, seasons of increased rejoicing, — seasons of holy solemnity, in thus presenting ourselves before the Lord.

We believe there are many up and down, in this time of outward commotion, whose eyes are turned to this people, — and Oh! that instead of presenting stumbling blocks to those who are seeking something solid to build upon, a foundation that will stand the day of trial, there may be displayed in the tenor of our lives, winning proofs, "that the righteous is more excellent than his neighbour."

At this our annual assembly we have the company of a large number of our beloved Youth many of whose minds we believe are increasingly disposed, to consider the things that are excellent and durable; and we are comforted in the hope that there will be a dignified succession of those who will stand for the honor of Truth, when such as have long borne the heat and burden of the day shall be removed from works to rewards.

We have to sympathise with you in recent removals by death of members "worthy of double honour", from your part of the vineyard; the memory of whom is precious to many of us: — and we trust that as it was their concern faithfully to serve Christ, their Lord and master, here on earth they now gloriously rest with Him from their labours.

The subject of the guarded education of our Youth is

1814 revived among usal this time, and its importance in our view still remains undiminished.

It affords us satisfaction to observe that your concern for the civilization of the Indian natives is still unremitted; and though the present unfavorable State of things may retard your benevolent endeavours, yet as a principle of duty hath been the leading motive in action we doubt not the cause of humanity will thereby gain some accession of strength, and that you will witness in your own minds an increase of peace. —

With the salutation of love we remain your friends and brethren. Signed on behalf and by direction of the meeting

by Samuel Rodman, Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held at New York.

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle of the present year with those from the different Yearly Meetings, with whom we hold an epistolary correspondence, has been read to our comfort and satisfaction. The various subjects which you mention as having engaged your attention are indeed interesting; and there is not any doubt but that the concerns, whether they relate more particularly to Individuals or to the Society at large, which may rightly come before our Yearly Meetings, if they are managed in the Spirit of meekness and wisdom, will result to edification. We feel solicitous that both you and we, in all our deliberations for the good of the Church, may be mercifully preserved upon the sure foundation, a submission of will to the divine will, wherein our Spirits are clothed with sweetness and that charity, which is the essence of our holy profession.

1814 The interesting paragraph in your Epistle, relative to the right education of children meets, we trust, a correspondent sensation in our minds, and we much desire that we may be mutually engaged, as humble supplicants at wisdom's gate, in order to become increasingly qualified to bring up our children and youth in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We notice the encouraging account which you give of your Yearly Meeting School, the subject of a similar establishment has been again introduced to the consideration of this Meeting, and if we may judge from the acknowledged utility, and the general impression which seems to be upon friends minds of the necessity of such an institution, we may hope for a successful effort to establish one upon a liberal and permanent foundation

This Meeting has been attended by a large number of friends and the business which has come before us has been considered and resolved in much unanimity, and we trust that friends have been owned in their several sittings, by the covering of truth.

It is with heartfelt satisfaction that we mention that there appears among the younger classes of Society an increasing dedication and obedience to the holy principles which we profess, may these both with you and with us, be encouraged to persevere to the end, letting neither height nor depths, principalities nor powers, things present, nor things to come, separate them from that divine love which hath in mercy visited their minds.

In the fellowship of the Gospel we salute you and remain your friends and Brethren. Signed on behalf and by direction of the Meeting by

Samuel Rodman, Clerk.

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1814 To the Yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held at Baltimore

Dear Friends

We have renewed cause to acknowledge the divine regard extended to us at this our Annual Assembly, not only from a sensible overshadowing of his Fatherly love experienced by many minds, but also that he has hitherto so far ruled in the hearts of men, that we have been able to meet at our usual place of assembling, and harmoniously to transact the affairs of the Church that have come before us; and the faith of many we trust has been strengthened in the Gospel principles of Peace: These feel desirous that all may so live in its divine nature, that, when trials and probations may be sore, which now awfully await, and in some places have burst forth on our once happy land, they may find a safe hiding place and have the consoling evidence that they have not been instrumental, immediately or remotely, in bringing home to our dwellings those calamities inseparably connected with a state of war.

We notice in your acceptable Epistle of 10th month last which is received at this time, that the condition of our fellow men of the African and Indian race, still continues to interest your minds, and although almost insuperable embarrassments and difficulties may obstruct for the present your successful endeavours for their good, Yet we rejoice in believing that their cause lies so near the hearts of many in your parts, that the disposition to do them good will not be suffered to decline.

While we have been favored to feel desires for the welfare of all classes of our Religious Society, our minds have been tenderly interested for the Young and rising Generation. May our beloved young brethren with you and us, be willing

1814 to open their hearts to the visitations of Divine Love which we believe are in a peculiar manner extended to the Youth of our day, — may they behold the beauty and excellency there is in the blessed truth, and their hearts become increasingly enamoured thereof, whereby a willingness will be wrought in them to resign and dedicate their all to God, and in this we are sure they will find that peace which can never be found in the pursuit of the fluctuating things of this life.

With the salutation of love we remain your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Yearly Meeting by Samuel Rodman Clerk

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To the Yearly Meeting of Friends next to be held in Virginia,

Dear Friends

Your very acceptable Epistle of last month has come to hand since the commencement of this Meeting, and been read therein to our satisfaction and refreshment, in that brotherly love which subsists among the followers of Christ, however situated as to outward condition, which is their only sure bond of Union and medium of mutual help and encouragement in the Christian warfare.

Many brethren in this meeting have felt their minds tenderly impress'd with, and deeply interested in your labours, as well for the relief & emancipation of our oppress'd fellow men of every description from the burden and thraldom under which they suffer through the cruelty and injustice of men; as for that of our fellow members of the Church from the entangling snares and bonds of our common adversary.

May you be encouraged to a faithful continuance and humble perseverance therein, by the all sustaining arm of his power

1814 who has promised that he will never leave nor forsake those who put their trust in him: Suffer us brethren beloved to remind you that it is equally easy to him to effect his work, however great or arduous in our view, by many or by few. We in our day have all seen faithful and sincere labours commenced and persevered in for a long time under much and powerful opposition, and great discouragement, blessed, and in the end crowned with success to our admiration and acknowledgement that his almighty arm was underneath to sustain and his power secretly effecting the work amidst our greatest discouragements. May your faith be strengthened and your hope sustained in humble confidence that your labors will prove like "bread cast upon the waters found after many days"

In reviewing the State of Society in these parts although we have had to note many deficiencies in a faithful support of our testimonies, and some deviation from the path of rectitude and christian virtue, yet we are comforted in the assurance that there are a number of faithful laborers in every part of the vineyard, that the authority of truth is pretty well supported in most of our subordinate meetings, that some have been added to the visible Church in divers parts by convincement; and that the various concerns of the Churches have been transacted in this meeting with a good degree of harmony and brotherly love.

In near sympathy and affectionate regard we repeat the Salutation of our love and remain your friends and brethren. Signed on behalf an

by direction of the Yearly Meeting by Sam.l Rodman Clk

To the Yearly Meting of Friends next to be held in North-Carolina.

Dear Friends

Having in this our Annual Assembly

1814 been favored with the overshadowing of Divine regard we feel freedom in Gospel love to salute you our brethren in the cordiality and fellowship thereof, and have cause to believe from feelings which impress'd our minds on reading your acceptable Epistle of the 10th mo. last that through the merciful extension of divine love our Epistolary intercourse may be maintained to our mutual satisfaction and encouragement.

By accounts received from our Quarterly Meetings deficiencies in various respects are manifested and we are renewedly sensible that nothing short of Christs Baptism can be effectual to the removing thereof, and an engagement has been felt that those who are under its influence, however painful the operation may so abide the dispensation as to witness the resurrection of that life and power by which all things become new and all things of God.

We notice with satisfaction that although no way opens for your active exertions on behalf of the injured Africans in your land that it is matter of concern and obtains your particular attention; feeling as we do for that oppress'd people we desire you may be encouraged in this respect, believing your care and sympathy herein will be productive of a blessing.

In a measure of that love and life which is the strength and refreshment of Gods heritage every where, we remain your friends and brethren.

Signed on behalf and by direction of the Meeting
by Samuel Rodman, Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends of Ohio

Dear Friends

Believing that an Epistolary intercourse between our different Meetings is, when rightly conducted, promotive of mutual benefit, by a lively revival from time to time of those important testimonies which we all profess to bear, as well as

1814 those more peculiar engagements which are often found to occupy the attention of individual Meetings, and above all, by its tendency to increase that christian fellowship, which not only qualifies for usefulness, but which constitutes one of our highest enjoyments in this state of mutability, — we thus address you with the salutation of our love, and the assurance that such a correspondence will be acceptable to us.

Although the annual accounts from our Quarterly Meetings still continue to exhibit sorrowful evidence that there are in the number of our members, those who are deviating from that law of Love, which ought to be the distinguishing mark of our profession, and which as its benign influence is suffered to prevail would lead from the spirit of contention to that of harmony and peace in the transaction of all our concerns civil and religious, and in the end, to that peace of mind, which is of inestimable value. — We have been comforted in believing that there are many among us, in whose view the testimonies of truth are still precious; and that the proceedings of this large Assembly have been measurably conducted under the influence of divine love.

The guarded education of Youth has claimed a share of our attention in this meeting, and we are induced to believe, from the remarks of many friends, that an increased interest is felt for the right improvement and qualification of those, on whom the performance of many important duties must ere long devolve. We have felt solicitous that Parents and others may still more generally become impressed with the importance of the Subject; and that those in Younger years, seeing this solicitude may be more ardently engaged to remember their Creator in the days of their youth, and to seek that

1814 true wisdom whose ways are ways of pleasantness, and all whose
paths are peace! — And we have been encouraged in the belief
that we have at this time had the company of some who are
thus dedicating the morning of their days. —
May the number of those who are thus faithful among the
youth, as well as in more advanced life be increased, with us
and you, till our Sion again shine with its antient brightness.

We are your friends an Brethren.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting
by Samuel Rodman, Clerk.

1815

At our yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island beginning with public Meetings for Worship at Newport and Portsmouth on first day the 11th of 6th month 1815 and on second day morning the 12th at Newport for Discipline,

The Clerk being detained by sickness in his family and William Rotch Jr being at this time Clerk of the Meeting for Sufferings, consequently takes his place.

Accounts were received from all our Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following friends are named as representatives Viz[t] for

Rhode Island, David Buffum, Joseph Mitchell, Sylvester Wicks Andrew Nichols Jr and Joseph Buffington.

Salem. Paul Rogers, Enoch Page, Isaac Bassett Jr and Asa Thompson

Sandwich James Tucker, Peter Barney, Prince Gifford Jr, Samuel Nowell, Abraham Russel and Samuel Wing.

Falmouth. Nathaniel Dyer, Grace Phillips, William Rotch and Solomon Boyce.

Smithfield Walter Allen, Josiah Mowe, Rowland Robinson, Moses Harman and Israel Sabin,

Nassalborough. Moses Pierce, Samuel Pope & Moses Parker, Nantucket who are all present except James Tucker & Peter Barney, for whose absence acceptable reasons were rendered.

We have at this time the company of our friends Edward Stabler from Alexandria Monthly & Fairfax Quarterly Meetings, John Heald from Middleton Monthly & Kennet Quarterly Meetings Isaac Bonsall from Philadelphia Richard Mott from Mamaroneck, Roger Brooke from Indian Spring companion to Edward Stabler, James Boulton from Middleton companion to John Heald and Samuel Wetherill from Philadelphia companion to Isaac Bonsall, whose certificates were all read and their company acceptable.

We have also the company of our friends Jemima Thorndike from Rahway & Plainfield Monthly Meeting New Jersey & her companion Ann Barnard from Philadelphia whose certificates were read and their company acceptable.

The General Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of London, also Epistles from those of London, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New York North Carolina, Virginia and Ohio were read to our edification and satisfaction.

by information from our several Quarterly Meetings it appears 1810
that they have each directed their respective proportions of Tax paid
to our Treasurer.

We appoint Thomas Rowland, Daniel Johnson, Rowland
Rathborn, Joseph Davis, Isaac Peirce and William Purinton to
settle our accounts with the Treasurer, report the state thereof
and to prepare a Treasurer for the ensuing year.

William Almy, John Bailey, Paul Rogers, Thomas Arnold
Thomas Rowland, James Scott, William Dean, Abraham
Sherman jr. William Rotch jr. Isaac Brown & Stephen Gould & Sylvester Wicks, Rowland Greene and Isaac Moody are appointed
to prepare Essays of Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings.

We adjourn to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The representatives having proposed William Rotch Jr for
Clerk and Abraham Sherman Jr. for Assistant Clerk, they
are accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

Appearing by the account from Salem Quarterly Meeting
that they are united in favour of dividing that Meeting, which
having had our deliberate consideration, it is our conclusion
that said Meeting be divided agreeable to their proposition viz!
That the Monthly Meetings of Dover, Berwick and Sandwich
constitute a Quarterly Meeting by the name of Dover, and that
their meetings be held on the fourth & fifth days of the Months, in
the fourth & tenth Months at Dover, in the first Month at Sandwich
and in the eighth month at Berwick.

And that in future Salem Quarterly Meeting be held on
the fourth & fifth day of the fifth month at Salem, and on the third
fifth days, in the eighth Month at Lynn, in the tenth month
at Weare, and in the first month at Seabrook, and that the
division take place after the next meeting. And Joseph Harris
Walter Allen, Samuel Thurston, Moses Pecker George Whitwick
William Almy, Thomas Arnold, Thomas Rowland and
William Rotch jr are appointed to attend the opening of the
respective Quarterly Meetings of Salem & Dover, render
them any assistance & advice which they may find necessary
and report to our next Yearly Meeting.

The minds of the Meeting for Sufferings are united, and their attention
to the subjects which came before them, is satisfactory to this meeting,
and the same friends who composed the Meeting last year are continued
to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the year ensuing and Elyra
Collins, Jonas Disley, Moses Paw, Rowland Rathborn, Isaac Bassett jr.
and Daniel Johnson are appointed in addition to them.

The Meeting for Sufferings having recommended to our consideration
the propriety of having removed the Door of the Friends Meeting
House and set in Barton, and also the utility of a more suitable ac-
commodation for friends holding meetings in that Town, and it having

1815 claimed an attention we appoint Thomas Arnold Matthew Priestman William Dean, Ezra Collins, Sylvester Wicks Moses Brown, David Buffum, Obadiah Brown, Paul Cuffe and James Barker to take the subject generally under their deliberation and report their judgment to a future setting of this Meeting, also propose such friends to be appointed to manage the trust as they may think proper.

We adjourn to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

13th day met by adjournment

The Queries were read and answers from all our Meetings and on a review of the State of our religious Society, as represented to them our minds were impressed with deep solicitude that a more careful attention to our several religious and moral duties may be maintained, and in a particular manner that we may all be more engaged in cultivating a near acquaintance with the redeeming love of God. Under this precious influence, we shall be found constant in the important duty of attending our Meetings for divine worship, whereby we shall not only bear a public testimony of our belief in the superintendence of an All-wise Creator; but man through divine goodness, be oftentimes made partakers of that spiritual refreshment, which he alone teaches us, is in mercy dispensed to the humble dependent, and be thereby strengthened in the performance of our various duties, for as we increase in this love to God, love one unto another will necessarily follow, and we shall be preserved in that unity and fellowship which is the distinguishing badge of the disciples of Jesus.

Our minds have been renewedly concerned, that all in profession with us may be increasingly cautious of making use of ardent spirits; the dreadful consequences of the frequent use of which, appears in the present day to excite a very laudable concern in the minds of many of the people at large, who are looking towards us both for example and assistance, to aid them in lessening the many evils which have flowed from this source. Herein it is highly important that we should give no occasion of stumbling to others, in the support of a testimony, which we have long believed it our duty to bear; and our several Monthly Meetings are particularly advised to give their watchful attention to this subject.

Altho it has been cause of thankfulness to us, that during a period of War, our peaceable testimony has been so well maintained, yet there are many inducements to excite us to more attention and energy on this very important & interesting subject.

Our hearts have been made humbly thankful in believing that it is a time in which the attention of the people is peculiarly turned towards an investigation of the grounds of war; and that conviction has been wrought in the minds of very many, that it is a custom not reconcilable with the doctrines and precepts of the Author of the Christian faith. Under these consoling considerations, how very urgent is our duty to improve every opportunity of diffusing the knowledge of that most excellent principle which we have ever believed would produce and maintain "Peace on earth, good will to men".

1815

The Clerk is directed to forward copies of the preceding minute to each of our meetings.

By the reports from our Quarterly Meetings it appears that the following friends have been recommended as Ministers Viz[t] Mary Newell of Lynn Philip Dunham of Westhaven Mary Minot of Falmouth, Edward Cobb of Windham Moses Starkey of Dartmouth and John Warren of Durham. Also that Joseph Austin and Lydia Macy of Nantucket, Elizabeth Howland of Dartmouth, Amos Eldridge of Uxbridge and David Nichols of Berwick have been appointed to the station of Elders.

We adjourn to the 10[th] hour tomorrow morning.

14[th] day met by adjournment.

The Committee upon the subject of Boston Meeting house made the following report. Viz[t]

We have agreed in proposing Samuel Rodman and William Rotch Jr. to receive a conveyance from the present Trustees, and recommend the further care and consideration of the subject, be submitted to the Meeting for Sufferings, that the Meeting house may be repaired enlarged or rebuilt if on consideration there should be a voluntary subscription to defray the expense. signed in behalf of the Committee James Barker

Newport 3m[o] 13. 1815 Wm Dean

Which having been duly considered is accepted and Samuel Rodman and William Rotch Jr are accordingly appointed to receive the deed of Trust in behalf of this Meeting And the subject is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings to proceed therein as they may find best, provided voluntary subscriptions are made to defray the expense.

We are informed by a Minute of the Meeting for Sufferings that in consequence of our recommendation last year, Subscriptions towards the Fund for establishing a boarding School have been procured amounting to nearly Ten Thousand Dollars, and Bonds and Mortgages are in readiness on various conditions, for annuities amounting to fifteen hundred Dollars for five years, Upon further consideration

1815 Reappointed Josiah Lowe William Parrington John Bailey John Winslow, Enoch Breed, Jesse Bally John B Dockray with the members of this Meeting for Sufferings to confer upon the subject and report how far it may be best to proceed therein at this time at a future sitting of this meeting —

The Committee to settle accounts with the Treasurer report that they appear now in his hands a balance of Eight hundred thirty three Dollars 76/100 and propose five hundred Dollars to be raised for the present year, and that Obadiah M Brown be appointed Treasurer, which being accepted Obadiah M Brown is appointed Treasurer for the ensuing year and the several Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to him their respective proportions of three hundred Dollars viz Rhode Island Ninety Dollars Salem Forty five Dollars and with One hundred sixteen Dollars Falmouth Ten Dollars Smithfield thirty Dollars and Vassalborough Nine Dollars

We adjourn to the 5th hour this afternoon —

Afternoon met by adjournment —

The subject refered from last Yearly Meeting relative to appointing a Committee to visit Vassalborough Meeting coming again under consideration, and not being apprehending at this time to require any special attention thereto, the subject is dismissed —

Epistles for our brethren at the yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore Virginia North Carolina and Ohio were presented by the Committee and directed to be transcribed and forwarded —

The Committee appointed this morning report that upon deliberating upon the subject of a Boarding School, And it being suggested that in establishing such an institution, it would be an improvement to have distinct & seperate buildings for the accommodation of Male and Female Children, And as it requires more time for considering this important subject, the same committee are continued in conjunction with the Members of this Meeting for Sufferings further to deliberate thereon, and if they can form any plan of progressing in this business to their satisfaction, the Meeting for Sufferings is authorized to proceed as they may find it advisable, and report next year. And this Meeting being encouraged to look forward towards the accomplishment of the important concern of establishing a School for the guarded education of our Youth, Recommends to its Quarterly Meetings to use their endeavours to promote further subscriptions towards this desirable object —

Having been enabled as we humbly trust to transact the various affairs of the Society which have claimed our attention at this time in a degree of that Divine influence which produces brotherly love and condescension as its certain result, we desire to be thankful therefor, and propose to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year — Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

1815

To the yearly Meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends

Under a degree of the cementing influence of our Heavenly Fathers love, we affectionately salute you and inform that your Epistle of last year, has been read in this Meeting to our edification and comfort, and under the harmonizing prevalence of that Love, we have been enabled to transact the affairs of the church that have come before us in brotherly harmony.

It is with much satisfaction we have to remark that through the merciful interposition of Divine goodness a stop has been put to the effusion of blood, on this side of the Atlantic, and that Peace is diffusing its benign influence over this extensive country, which favour demands the tribute of thankfulness to the author of all our mercies, and it is an additional source of consolation, that the minds of many of other denominations, in viewing the Spirit & deplorable effects of War, have been brought to espouse and in some instances to promulgate the honorable doctrines of the Gospel.

Our Meeting has been attended by many of the precious youth, the stability of whose conduct, and consistency of whose deportment have administered to our comfort, and a hope prevails that a succession of Standard bearers, will be raised in support of the honour and dignity of the precious cause of truth and righteousness in the earth.

That the glad tidings of the Gospel of peace may be more and more diffused, and no obstruction arise to so glorious a work from any under our high and holy profession, is the sincere desire of Your affectionate friends and brethren —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

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1815

To Friends at the Yearly Meeting in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

Being once more assembled to transact the concerns of Society, we have renewed cause to acknowledge the continued extension of Divine regard, believing that as our minds abide under the precious influence of that wisdom which is from above, the epistolary intercourse subsisting between us may contribute to our mutual edification and comfort. And while we are again solicitous to cherish its continuance we can sincerely adopt the language of one formerly, "What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benifits?

Much exercise has attended us at this time that friends should be faithful in keeping up our Christian Testimony against the use of Spirituous Liquors, being persuaded that if due care is not taken herein, reproach may be brought upon our profession, and the growth and prosperity of truth and righteousness impeded thereby.

The Accounts which have been received from our subordinate Meetings, for the most part bear good report of the Church's prosperity, and we feel our minds bowed under an humbling sense of the Divine goodness in affording us favour in the sight of those that are without, in our several testimonies and especially that relating to military requisitions.

With respect to the guarded education of our youth, we still feel a lively and interesting concern, impressed with the importance of giving early attention to the principle of truth, in order to maintain with clearness the different branches of our testimony, we remain solicitous that the rising generation may not only be preserved from following the vain fashions and customs of this world but flee even the appearance of evil. It is only as we are enabled to maintain our holy profession in its purity, that we continue a peculiar people favoured of the Lord, hence the necessity of watchfulness and faithfulness. What more effectual way of propagating the fruits of righteousness throughout the Churches of Christ, than training up Children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The morning of life is a season peculiarly favourable for cultivating the tender plants of piety & virtue the mind being then soft and pliant, is easily susceptable of the

impressions of redeeming love. It is under this consideration that we tenderly exhort them to submit in cheerful obedience to the voice of Divine instruction before the "evil days come, or the time draw nigh when they shall say we have no pleasure in them". How lightly ought we to esteem the sufferings of this present life which are but for a season, in comparison with that crown of glory which awaits the righteous. Learn early then dear youth to walk in the ways of wisdom, which are pleasant, and whose paths are peace, and you will assuredly receive consolations of that gracious promise, "They shall be mine saith the Lord, in the day when I make up my jewels".

Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings have been read in this Meeting, and we are comforted in the evidence which they convey of the love and unity of the body in general.

In the cementing bond of the love of Christ, our salutation is tenderly offered to you, desiring the prosperity of the whole heritage of God. We continue your friends and brethren.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To Friends at the Yearly Meeting in New York

Dear Friends

That love which is commanded as the badge of true discipleship and which is the fulfilment of the whole law, is not only an important duty, but one of the richest enjoyments of its profession. It constitutes its own reward. While this love is experienced, the communication of it to those, who are its objects, seems to follow as by a natural consequence. Under the influence of feelings such as these we again address you.

This Meeting has been attended by a large number of our Members, and we have had the company of several friends from various yearly Meetings, whose religious services among us have been cordially received, tending much to our edification.

The various interesting concerns that have claimed our attention have been conducted, in a good degree of solemnity and brotherly condescension, affording an evidence & giving us confidence to hope, we have met in the name of Jesus, and that he has been in the midst of us.

While reviewing the State of Society, several of the important testimonies which we are engaged to hold up to the World, were brought livingly into view, particularly those against Intemperance and War.

1815 On the former subject several deficiencies were noticed in our accounts, and much advice feelingly administered.

And tho we feel humble gratitude in the belief that since our Society has existed it has born a noble testimony for the Prince of Peace, yet we feel renewedly concerned that we may not rest satisfied here. We see others rising around us, and boldly proclaiming the inconsistency of war with the spirit of the Gospel. The public mind seems favourably disposed, and a state of peace affording the best opportunity for promulgating its doctrine. Shall we not join heart and hand in a cause so honourable? let us cherish the good wherever it exists, and promote all proper exertions to hasten the reign of the Messiah in the hearts of the children of men. At the same time we ought to remember as a preparatory step, that the most excellent testimony we can bear against the evil is to show in our own conduct that we are redeemed from the spirit of pride and resentment, those lusts, from whence wars proceed.

On these and some other subjects we have been engaged to address our absent members.

In your Epistle of last month, we notice with satisfaction the appointment of increasing concern for the right education of Youth — With desires that all our exertions for the promotion of Truth & Righteousness may be directed by best wisdom, we conclude we are your friends

Signed on behalf of the Meeting Wm Rotch Clerk

To Friends at their Yearly Meeting in Baltimore

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle of the 10th month last, has been received and read in this Meeting, and the information is grateful to our feelings, that in the course of your deliberations you have been favoured with renewed evidences of divine regard and we may also acknowledge an evidence of the same favour being extended to us in our annual sittings, under a feeling sense of which we fervently desire brotherly love and christian fellowship to continue, in which we again affectionately salute you.

Some of the most prominent branches of our Christian testimonies have been subjects of our deliberation at this season, that against war in a peculiar manner has interested us, & we rejoice in the hopeful prospect, that this testimony is not only preserved in our own Society, but that it is making some advances amongst other denominations.

the pernicious effects of the use of ardent spirits has also occasioned 1815
exercise to this meeting, and it is pleasing to find same evidence
that our testimony against it meets the approbation & affords
encouragement to many who are not of our Society.

May we endeavour under the government of the prince
of Peace, that whether at any time we may hear of wars and rumours
of wars, our peace in Christ may not be troubled, so shall we stand
as a city set on an hill which cannot be hid, and may our lights
so shine before men in the various branches of the testimonies
given us to bear, that others may be induced to glorify God
in the day of their visitation. Let us diligently seek to abide
in and with the seed of the Kingdom, that we may witness the
increase of it in our lives and conversation, so shall we be preserved
from being solidified by and from embracing the spirit of this world, which is
known to be enmity with God.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting
Wm Robeth Jr Clerk

To Friends at their Yearly Meeting in Virginia

Dear Friends

We have received your last acceptable Epistle which
has been to our satisfaction, among the various subjects that
occupy our attention on these occasions, it is not the
least interesting that of corresponding with our distant brethren,
the chief object of which is "to excite to Love and good works", and
in this our present engagement, it is our trust the prevailing
desire of our hearts, that we may be enabled again to salute you
in the fresh springs of life.

From the commotions of war our country is once more
restored to a State of tranquility, and it is the earnest concern
of our minds, that we may be so mindful of the invaluable
blessing, as to evince by the circumspection of our conduct that
we are a people, who seek Redemption from every thing that
has a tendency to lead to discord and strife, that we are indeed
willing subjects of the Prince of Peace. To the faithful support
of this noble testimony, may it be our watchful care in every
department of life, to endeavour to do justly, to love mercy, and to
walk humbly - dispositions which if dwelt in, are eminently
calculated to promote harmony and happiness in our own
minds and likewise to diffuse them around us.

Our profession dear Friends, is a high one, our call is a holy
one. The obligations of social and religious duty, have the same im-
portance they ever had, and altho human nature has the same
weakness, yet there remains the same fountain of wisdom
and strength to which there was access by holy men of old, Why then
should any grow remiss in the performance of those duties, the observance
of which has ever been found profitable, & there ought to labour in that
field wherein lies the pearl of inestimable value? But there are we trust
many among us, as well as with you, who by a humble attention

thereby an still witnesses of the living efficacy of the divine principle, and there know at times a being brought to the holy mountain, and their hearts made joyful in the house of prayer.

In looking over the different classes of society, the rising generation continue to claim no small share of our notice and affectionate solicitude, and we are comforted in believing there are many among us, of this discription, whose minds have been turned to take a due estimate of the value of an early dedication, and such in faithful perseverance, will assuredly find for every relinquishment of this fading & empty, the recompence of an hundred fold, in those that are dignified and permanent.

We notice your remarks on behalf of the oppressed, and tho' we have not much to say at present on this subject, yet we may briefly observe, that the Christian mind will ever find a solid satisfaction in promoting the comfort and best interests of our fellow men.

In the course of our deliberations in this meeting much weighty advice has been administered on various subjects, and we have had thankfully to witness renewed favours and help from the ever blessed head of the Church in a sense whereof we conclude with our salutation of love your friends and Brethren — Signed on behalf of said Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To Friends at their Yearly Meeting in North Carolina.

Dear Friends

One is your master even Christ, and all ye are brethren". The truth of this very interesting declaration of the great head of the Church to some of his immediate followers, was impressively felt by many in this assembly, on the reading of the several Epistles received at this time, from the different Yearly Meetings, and called for the expression of gratitude that it was so. believing that while these feelings continue to be thus excited, our correspondence may be continued to our mutual advantage and encouragement, we are induced renewedly to address you with the salutation of our love. Your acceptable communication of the eleventh month last, was among those to which we have alluded; and we cordially unite with you in the solicitude which you therein express, that we may shine to the World, by a demeanor consistent with the profession we are making, that we are indeed Meek & humble followers of the Prince of Peace.

We are glad to learn that the distressed situation of the Africans still claims your attention. We sympathize with you in your concern on their behalf. We are sensible that you must often feel deeply pained at witnessing the injuries they sustain. 1813

But we are desirous that you may not be discouraged. Altho your well meant efforts to ameliorate their unhappy situation may at times appear unavailing, they may still have a salutary influence on the minds of some, and awaken them to a degree of thoughtfulness that may hereafter be productive of good. They will at least have a tendency, in common with every other faithful discharge of apprehended duty, to produce that sweet peace of mind which the approbation of his fellow-men can never feel, which the world can neither give nor take away.

Among the important concerns which have engaged our attention at this time, the state of society has been very interesting. Tho' the defficiencies which are still existing within our borders, are we trust, not more extensive than in preceding years, they still manifest in too many instances, a want of faithfulness in the maintenance of some of our Christian testimonies, and bring to our knowledge deviations, which tho' variously manifested may be traced, as was pertinently remarked on the occasion to the same source, want of love to our heavenly father and benefactor. Where the influence of this divine principle is felt to prevail as it ought, there will be no neglect of the attendance of our meetings for religious worship. Unity will of course be maintained among ourselves, and love to the great family of man will predominate to the subjection of those discordant passions, which if indulged would lead to violence and the spirit of war.

The interesting subject of the right education of our youth has again been an object of our deliberation, and the minds of many among us appear to be increasingly awakened to a sense of its importance. We have had acceptable with us at this season the company of many of our members in the younger walks of life, to whom the maintenance of our christian testimonies we feel comforted in believing, is viewed more precious than any of the fleeting enjoyments of time.

In a measure of that love which has been graciously extended to us at this time, and under the influence of which, we have been enabled to conduct the deliberations of this large assembly in a spirit of brotherly condescension, we again salute you, and are your friends & brethren

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

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To Friends at their Yearly Meeting in Ohio.

Dear Friends

Believing that a proper interchange of the views and concerns which originate in the Truth, have a tendency to promote the advancement of its cause, we are led to appreciate the practice of a mutual correspondence in Christian love, and under these impressions we again salute you, and acknowledge the receipt of your Epistle of last year, which was acceptably read at this time.

Our minds at this season have been deeply concerned that the important testimonies of our society may be faithfully maintained, having received evidence that some of them are gaining ground in the estimation of the seriously disposed among many of other religious denominations, and that in particular, a concern to stay the progress of intemperance is visibly increasing.

It was grateful to us to witness a cordial unanimity in our deliberations on this subject, and our hope is, that the many evils arising from the unnecessary use of ardent spirits, will ere long be more generally seen in all their real deformity, and its effects on the happiness of man be thereby arrested.

The subject of War has also claimed our renewed attention, and we are comforted in the reflection that our previous Testimony on that subject, the existance of which has been coeval with the society, is now also spreading its benign influence over the minds of many of other religious professors.

The guarded education of our beloved children is likewise a subject of deep interest in our deliberations, and we entertain a hope, that the day is not very distant when we shall have an institution under the patronage of this Meeting, which will afford them a further extension of that blessing. Thus are we encouraged to persevere, having cause to believe that the Shepherd of Israel graciously presides over his family, & will bless the endeavours of those who are engaged in the promotion of righteousness in the earth.

And it is particularly consoling to us, that among the children of your Yearly Meeting many have chosen the Lord for their portion & the God of Israel for the lot of their inheritance, And in an affectionate solicitude that these both with us & with you may be encouraged to persevere through every dispensation, which may in unerring wisdom be allotted to them, & that their number may be increased We conclude to remain your friends & brethren

Signed on behalf of the Meeting Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, held on Rhode Island, beginning with publick Meetings for worship at Newport and Portsmouth on first day the 16th of 6th month 1816 and this morning the 17th at Newport for Discipline.

Accounts being received from all our Quarterly Meetings it appears the following Friends are appointed representatives Viz

For Rhode Island, Benjamin Trebarn, John Wilbour Elisha Bowen, Sylvester Wickes, Benjamin Read & Peris Peck Jr.

Salem, Enoch Page, William Dean, Joseph Philbrick Ezra Collins and Daniel Johnson.

Sandwich, Russell Davis, Matthew Barker Hezekiah Bernard, James Tucker, William Gifford & Abraham Russell.

Falmouth, Nicholas Cobb, Reuben Brackett, Thomas [illegible] and Isaac Stevens.

Smithfield, Isaac Aldrich, Daniel Killey, Elias Earl and David Smith.

Vassalborough, Stephen Wing, Barnabas Tabor and Paul Tabor.

Dover, Paul Rogers, Richard Dame, Eli Varney, John King jr.

All present except two.

We have at this time the company of our friends Hugh Judge from Mill-Water, Ohio, Grard Hopkins from Baltimore & Lavina Haight from Butternutts, James Hallock from Marlborough, Christopher Healy from Cowmans, Isaac Thorn from Nine Partners & David Harkness from Peru Monthly Meetings all in the State of New York, and John Hallock from Egg Harbour New Jersey all in the service of the Ministry. Also Joshua Sharpless from Birmingham Pennsylvania William Pool from Wilmington Delaware, John Hull from Stanford & William Rus from Rye in the State of New York, all in the Station of Elders. Likewise Robert Parry from Goshen Monthly Meeting Pennsylvania & Joseph C Dean from Oswego Monthly Meeting New York whose Certificates were read and their Company acceptable to us.

The General Epistle from the Yearly Meeting in London last year has been read, and the interesting advices therein communicated has been to our instruction and edification. The Epistles to this Meeting from the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio have also been read to our comfort and satisfaction and we appoint Richard Dame, Job Otis, William Almy, William Evans, Samuel Rodman, John Wilbour, William Jenkins Lewis L Clark

1816 Thomas Arnold, John R Davis William Rotch Jr and Abraham Shearman Jr. to prepare essays of Epistles to our friends at those several yearly Meetings.

We appoint Isaac Wendall, William Cobb, Barnabas Taber, Tadock Smith, Joseph Anthony, Hezekiah Barnard and Elijah Chace, to audit our accounts with the Treasurer, report the State thereof, propose the sum they may find necessary to raise for the ensuing year, and also to name a Treasurer.

All our Quarterly Meetings inform that they have directed their several proportions of stock, paid to our Treasurer.

By the accounts from our Quarterly Meetings it appears that the following friends have been recommended as Ministers Viz. Ann new Nichols of South Kingstown, Browning wife of Sandwich, Experience Shearman of New Bedford Monthly Meetings, and that Elisha Purington of Falmouth Monthly Meeting has been restored to his former standing as a Minister. Also that the following friends have been admitted to the Station of Elders Viz Nicholas Gorgon of Greenwich, Jonn Page & Wife David Dow, Abigail Fulsom and Ruth Jones of Leavitt, Hannah Arnold and Silas Earl of Uxbridge, Josiah Reed of Smithfield. Mary Dean of Leeds and Nicholas Jones of Dover Monthly Meetings.

This Meeting adjourns to the 4th hour this afternoon.

(Forenoon meeting by adjournment)

The Representatives have proposed William Rotch Jr for Clerk and Abraham Shearman Jr for Assistant Clerk, they are accordingly reappointed to those services.

The Queries were read with Answers from our several Quarterly Meetings, and upon thus investigating the State of Society much lively exercise was excited and many salient remarks were made, applicable to the various defections which are still remaining amongst us, and which were impressively recommended to the individual attention of those present, under a hope that as this becomes our concern, the exercise and solicitude of this meeting may be usefully communicated to our brethren at home.

We adjourn to the 3rd hour tomorrow afternoon.

18th day met by adjournment

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Having had the company of our friends Elizabeth Coggeshall from Newyork, and Margaret Judge from the Monthly Meeting of Indian Spring Maryland also Amos & Thorn from the Eastern parts, Judith Coffin from the Creek, Dorothy Golden from Sturgo and Jemimah Kus from Pine Monthly Meetings all of the State of Newyork and Caleb Pearson from Goshen Monthly Meeting Pennsylvania all in the service of the Ministry their certificates were read and their company acceptable to us, as is likewise that of Dorothy Hopkins from Baltimore and Elizabeth Baldwin from Troy Monthly Meeting whose certificates were likewise read.

A testimony from Berwick Monthly Meeting approved by Dover Quarterly Meeting in behalf of our deceased friend Mehetable Jenkins was read in this Meeting and directed to be recorded.

By the report of the Committee appointed last year to attend the Quarterly Meetings of Salem and Dover it appears that each of those meetings were attended by some of the Committee, and that their settings were accompanied with a good degree of satisfaction.

The Records of the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last year, were read and their attention to the subjects that have been under their notice appears to be satisfactory to this Meeting. And the same Friends are continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year. And Abraham Shearman Jr is appointed a member of that Meeting.

The Committee to settle with the Treasurer, report they find in his hands six hundred & three Dollars & 45/100 & proposing that Obadiah Brown be continued Treasurer, he is accordingly reappointed to that Office for the year ensuing. And said Committee having recommended the raising $300. The several Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward their respective proportions of that sum to our Treasurer. Viz. Rhode Island $90. Salem $30. Sandwich $116. Fairmount $10 Smithfield $30. Vassalborough $9 and Dover $15.

We adjourn to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

19th day met by adjournment.

As the assistance of the Yearly Meeting may be required agreeable to the provision made by our Discipline to extend the necessary care towards friends in the service of Truth, passing the sea in the service of Truth, We appoint Samuel Rodman James Brown, Abishai Bunker Peleg Mitchell and William Rotch Jr to that service for the ensuing year.

Epistles to our friends at the Yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia & Newyork were at this time read & approved.

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We adjourn to half past three this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.)

Epistles to the Yearly Meetings of Baltimore Virginia North Carolina and Ohio were read and approved.

The Clerk is requested to endorse on the Certificates of Friends now present, "That their Company has been acceptable to us".

The various subjects which have come before this Meeting, having been deliberated upon and resulted in much brotherly harmony, and having witnessed the cementing influence of Divine love, to strengthen us in our several stations, And also having received encouragement from the quiet and steady deportment of a large number of our youth who have attended at this time, we feel thankful in commemorating these favours, and conclude, to meet again on this stand at the usual time next year.

Signed Peter Yerkes Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London.

Dear Friends

As an evidence of the continued extension of that Love which unites collected bodies of the Church of Christ as well as individuals one unto another, your very acceptable communication of last year has afforded consolation & encouragement, and with your General Epistle has renewedly assured us that your care for the whole heritage, and concern for the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness in the Earth has not abated.

Whilst we lament with you the removal of a number who have been distinguished as standard bearers in the society and who have been taken from works to rewards, it is consoling to believe that the great Shepherd of Israel is raising up and qualifying others to fill their places.

We can feelingly reciprocate your congratulation on the restoration of peace to our respective Countries, and fervently unite in the desire that our rulers and also those of other nations may be so influenced by that Spirit which breathes Peace on Earth and good will to men, as to encourage a hope that the dreadful

calamity of war, may not soon again visit the Earth. The attention of many not of our religious persuasion in different parts of our Country, alluded to in our Epistle of last year, appears to be increasingly directed to a serious consideration of that great principle of Christian Doctrine, the unlawfulness of War, some of them we hope and believe are acting under that influence which will cause their labours to be owned by the Prince of Peace, and prove a blessing to their fellow-men. And a renewed concern has been felt at this time, that all who are in profession with us may so attend to the manifestations of Truth in themselves, and so walk in its paths, as to become a light, and not a stumbling block in the way of sincere enquirers after it.

Altho the accounts received from our several Quarterly Meetings have informed us of many deviations from the line of rectitude yet the Christian care and oversight which appears to be extended towards such affords consoling evidence that those who are as Watchmen on the walls, are in most places awake to their duty and not disheartened.

For the welfare of the Youth, that important & interesting part of our charge, desires have been raised and to them the attention and labour of many living members has been at this time extended, with fervent solicitude for their advancement in the knowledge of that divine principle, implanted in their hearts, which as attended to, will prove an unerring guide amidst the dangerous and alluring paths of youth, a sufficient support under every exercise and trial they may have to pass through and a never-failing fountain of every virtuous endowment.

This Meeting has been as large as usual, particularly of the younger class, its deliberation solid and harmonious, with thankful acknowledgement of the overshadowing of Divine Love, which is the Strength and crown of our assemblies, We salute you and remain your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf of said Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

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To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

Having again assembled for the purpose of transacting the important and interesting concerns of Society, our minds are solemnized under an humbling sense of the continued mercies of Him in whom our fathers trusted were preserved, inasmuch as he hath also been pleased to preserve us and permitting us thus to meet harmoniously owned our Assembly. Under the influence of these considerations our best feelings are awakened toward the family at large, and in the love of the Gospel we desire that all may faithfully attend to the inviting language of the Divine Master "take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls."

We are comforted at this time in renewedly believing that the peaceable principles of the Gospel are gaining admittance into the minds of many who have heretofore been insensible, that the Kingdom of the Messiah is a Kingdom of pure and perfect Peace, and our fervent solicitude is that this Divine Testimony may be still further exalted, that the Nations of the Earth may behold its beauty and be induced to submit to its calming influence, that Wars and fightings may cease, and the coming of him whose nativity Angels celebrated, may indeed produce "Peace on earth goodwill to Men".

That the suffering Africans and the Indian Natives are still the objects of your sympathy and care, excites in us lively hopes that your exertions may be blessed, that the oppressed may continue to be relieved, the uninformed instructed in all that may prove conducive to their present and future well-being, and that the reward of peace may be yours.

We doubt not it will be satisfactory to you to learn that the Yearly Meeting School which has so long engaged our attention, is in a state of progression, and that a building is now erecting for its accomodation.

Under the influence of a portion of that love which unites in one family the whole household of Faith we salute you and are your friends.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in New York. 1816

Dear Friends

We have the satisfaction of again addressing you, and of informing the continuance of our brotherly love, & may this precious cement not only continue but increase even up to the standard stated by the Apostle, "If we walk in the light as God is in the light, then have we fellowship one with another," with this blessing added "and the blood of Jesus Christ his son shall cleanse you from all sin". We have indeed been greatly favoured as a people, in having our minds turned to this divine light, and by becoming believers in it, have found in our own experience, and to an unspeakable satisfaction, that herein is laid the foundation of Christian unity. If we keep a single eye to this divine principle we shall be kept in perfect accordance with each other, in all the most important points of our holy profession, as well as in comfortably so in those things which are of lesser moment. May the Lord in the riches of his mercy preserve us in this precious unity both in faith & practice, that we may always be a people, to the praise of his name, who hath called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

We feel solicitous for the preservation and improvement of the beloved youth, both with us and with you, and in a particular manner that they may become intimately acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, and with the estimation in which they have been universally held by our religious society, that nothing may be able to shake their full belief in them, containing as they do, a faithful relation of the dealings of the most high with his creature man, from the beginning of time, and as the great repository of those Divine Truths, which by the special providence of God, have been transmitted to us as they had been to the beloved Timothy, in order to make us, as we have reason to believe they did him, "wise unto salvation" through faith, which is in Jesus Christ, both as to his manifestation in the flesh, and to his spiritual appearance in the heart.

These interesting objects of our mutual concern, will find, as those who are further advanced in life and experience have found, that situated as we are, amidst a variety of temptations & trials we have great cause to bless the Holy Name in that he has been graciously pleased, not only to visit immediately by his light & by his truth, but

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in providing for us this secondary aid, this faithful transcript of his ways and of his will, by which we might be strengthened under every circumstance to cleave unto him, and to serve him with an upright heart and a willing mind. May they be encouraged to hold fast the profession of their faith without wavering, that so they may know an increase of that stability which is only to be attained by faithfulness, and of that peace which is the blessed reward.

We have been enabled to transact the concerns of Society which have come before us in much harmony, and although the Reports from our Quarterly Meetings have unfolded cause of regret, yet we are comforted in believing that there are those of every class, who are concerned to support our Christian Testimonies, and who are making advances in the way of Truth.

Your acceptable Epistle of the last month has been received and read in this sitting to our comfort and Satisfaction — We are your affectionate Friends

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Jonathan Evans Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Baltimore.

Dear Friends

The reading of the Epistles from the several Yearly Meetings with which we correspond, has feelingly impressed our minds with the truth of the declaration, that one is our Master even Christ, and that we are Brethren, united in him, pursuing the same objects, animated by the same hopes, exposed to the same weaknesses, and dependent on him alone for assistance to surmount them. And how consoling the persuasion, that as we do humbly, though ardently, look upon him this assistance will never be withheld, that he is waiting to be gracious — that he stands at the door of the heart seeking an admittance. We would that we could impress these truths on the minds of those who, on occasion of the deficiencies that continue to be reported to us from our subordinate Meetings, are thereby instrumental in rendering many of them that attachment to their first love,

which has been cast through unwatchfulness, and of encouraging 1816
others of less experience, to listen to the "still small voice" which would lead them from the paths of error, & unite them in fervent, to the source of all true enjoyment.

But tho' deficiencies continue to be exhibited to our view, we are encouraged to believe that the number of those who are engaged to support our testimonies is not diminishing, and a lively concern has been expressed that the labours of those, under the constraining influence of divine love, may continue unremitted, and be blessed to the gathering of many of their dilinquent brethren; and that all within our inclosures may come so to walk as that in the expressive language of example, they may be enabled to say "Come we are desirous, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob, and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths."

Your acceptable Epistle of the 10th month last, was among those to which we have referred. It is satisfactory to us to notice the interest which you express for the welfare of the members of our Society. A similar interest has been felt by many in this assembly and has given rise in the course of our sittings, to many pertinent remarks. The way he, who in the early gathering of our Society, called many from the younger walks of life, and qualified them to become valiants in the cause of truth, even the dignified instruments of turning many to righteousness, will enable them to dedicate talents which would have raised them to eminence in the estimation of men, to the maintenance of his cause, we are meek and lowly, taken off the flattering prospects of the world its temptations and unsatisfactory pursuits for a life, exposed from without to various sufferings, but in favour realized the experience of "one formerly that they who trust in the Lord, shall find a refuge under the shadow of his wings, till all their calamities be overpassed." May the youth have been our fervent desires & with the youth of the present day, that more & more to an early dedication of heart, cause them to prize the beautiful engagements & those privileges which it cost their predecessors so many sacrifices to attain, and grant that they may become as "trees planted by the rivers of waters, bringing forth fruit in their season." It is consoling to us to believe that many of our younger brethren, who are now with us are thus dominating the motives of life, and that others are looking towards the "garden inclosed as the only place of safety."

We are pleased to learn, that the way is again opening for you to resume your benevolent labours in promoting the civilization of the

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... Indians and Negroes they will be concerned with yours.

In transacting the various concerns of Society that have claimed our attention at this time, much harmony has been manifested, and we think our assembly has been reasonably owned by him who is the great Head of the Church, and that his banner over us has been love, Under this renewed sense of his manifold favours we salute you and remain your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm. Rotch Jr. Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia.

Dear Friends

Under the influence in some degree we trust of that precious principle which strengthens the bands of brotherly affection we are engaged once more to address you, and to acknowledge the receipt of your last acceptable Epistle.

It is interesting to our feelings in these our large Assemblies, and has been particularly so at this time, to behold the members from different quarters, distinguished as they are by variety of age and conditions, by diversity of views and interests, as well as by great difference of religious attainments, united in degree under the all animating influence of that one Spirit which baptizes into one body, and while we know from experience that these feelings are not at our command, does it not furnish consolation, evidence to many minds of the reality of the principles that we profess; that indeed we have not followed cunningly devised fables, but the living and substantial Truth. We feel solicitous that these seasons of favour may not pass unimproved, but that we may be individually concerned, by divine assistance to dwell under these precious impressions; whereby we shall be prepared on returning to our smaller meetings, to witness the truth of that interesting promise, "where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them."

In our part of the heritage as well as in yours it is cause of deep regret to observe the various departures from our testimony reported in the answers from the several Quarterly Meetings, and the minds

of the exercised members of the Church have had much to feel on this 1816
account, but may we not say that these painful feelings have been
more than compensated, in the encouraging belief, that there is still
a number among those who are just advancing to manhood, as
well as those of riper age, who are concerned to maintain the dignity
of their profession unimpaired, and as they become more and more
interested in the prosperity of Zion, and the enlargement of her borders.

Among the difficulties to which we have already alluded, our
Friends have been particularly subject in the manner in the discharge
of our mid-week Meetings, and the minds of many have been
led to encourage their brethren in the performance of this im-
portant duty, a duty, as we believe incumbent on all, and which
if faithfully performed, will be found to be a precious privilege.
In this respect however we are not left without consolation, we
entertain the encouraging hope, that many among us are becoming
more convinced of the necessity of divine worship and of the spirit-
uality of its nature, and that the minds of some who are not gathered
into our fold, are becoming sensible of the necessity of ceasing to lean
their dependence on upon another, that is the word declared
by the mouth of his prophet formerly, "all other help is vain, and
to no purpose"; that their strength is to sit still.

With the expression of our earnest desire for the welfare
and prosperity of the great Cause in which we are engaged
we bid you affectionately farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Potts Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in North Carolina.

Dear Friends

Having been favoured at this time to receive epistles
communications from the several Yearly Meetings on this Continent
as also from Great Britain, our minds we trust have been
brought into a near sympathy and fellowship with the true ser-
vants wherever scattered under a renewed sense whereof we affection-
ately salute you, and may inform that we have been enabled
to transact the weighty affairs that have come before us in
brotherly love and harmony.

By the accounts received from our Quarterly Meetings we
are comforted in believing that although some fall short in maintain-
ing our Christian testimony agreeable to the pure Standard
yet there are those amongst us who are professing the welfare of

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Lian to their choicest joy, amongst whom there are a good number of our Youths, and many of our minds have been brought at this season reverently to desire, that those of this description both with us and with you may be preserved, and their numbers encreased, and as one step towards the attainment of this desirable object we have felt our minds weightily impressed with the necessity of recommending to our members the due attendance of their religious meetings, where any remissness hath appeared.

We noticed with solid satisfaction in your Epistle that the cause of the injured African race, claims your attention, and as we are placed remote from many of those scenes attendent on Slavery and oppression yet we feel it a duty to promote and encourage such measures as will lessen and in the end remove the evil,

A concern for the pious and guarded education of our youth encourages us among other things to progress in the establishment of a Boarding school intended for this salutary purpose —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting —

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ohio —

Dear Friends

Your acceptable epistle of last year was read in our Meeting to our satisfaction, & we are edified in observing the similarity of concern, manifested among all our brethren for the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness, & viewing the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace.

And we are comforted in noticing the encouraging, instructive mention concerning the rising generation among you. We may also inform you that we have at this time been favoured with the company of many of the beloved youth, whose solid deportment affords ground to hope that they are under the preparing hand for future usefulness in the Church, We ardently desire that the number of these may be increased both with us and with you

and that nothing may ever separate them from the love of 1816
God, which has been shed abroad in their hearts, but that they
may steadily look to him who hath thus tenderly visited
them with the revelation of his divine and saving power,
nobly and firmly bearing the cross, despising the shame,
remembering Christs words, "whosoever shall confess me before
men, him will I confess also before my father which is in
heaven, but whosoever shall deny me before men, him will
I also deny before my father which is in heaven".

The spiritually concerned among us, have been engaged to
encourage our members to a diligent discharge of our various
duties, and in a particular manner to the diligent attendance of
our religious meetings.

It is a matter of satisfaction to us to find that a concern
exists among our brethren so generally, situated for the literary
and guarded education of their Children, but we are making
some progress towards the establishment of a school under
the care of this Station. We are fully persuaded that much
very much depends on the guarded education of our youth
and that great responsibility is attached to parents and heads
of families, that they bring them up in the nurture and
admonition of the Lord. And that while they attend to their
literary acquirements, they do not neglect their religious in-
struction, which attainment alone can make the former
truly advantageous to them.

With our salutation of love we remain your
friends Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held on Rhode Island beginning with Public Meetings for Worship at Newport and Portsmouth the first day the 15th day of 6th mo 1817 and on second day morning the 16th at Newport for Discipline Accounts being received from our respective Quarterly Meetings the Representatives therein named are for

Rhode Island, Sylvester Wickes, Thomas Arnold, Andrew Nichols Jr David Earl and David Williams

Salem, Micajah Collins, Enoch Breed, Peletiah Purinton Daniel Johnson and William Dean.

Sandwich Samuel Rodman, Samuel Nisbett, Isa Rowland, Abraham Russell of Dartmouth, Prince Gardner, Joseph Wing Jr, Stephen Rogers and Abraham Shearman Jr.

Falmouth Rufus Easton, Edward Cox and Nathan Pope.

Nantucket Jesse Batty, Walter Allen, Josiah Hobbs and Barnard Fowler.

Vassalborough Moses Sleeper and Moses Dow.

Dover, Ezekiel Hoyt, Benjamin Fry and Joshua Meader. Who are all present except two.

We have had at this time the company of our friends Jesse Kersey from Pennsylvania Jonathan Taylor from the State of Ohio, Stephen Grellett, Isaac Thorn & William Cromwell, and Benjamin Mitchell from the State of New York, likewise their companions Benjamin W Ladd, Lodowick Hopie & Reuben Howes also William Evans and David Griffin whose Certificates were read and their company acceptable.

We have likewise the company of our friend Mary Nasteed whose Certificates from the Monthly Meeting of Witham, County of Essex and Quarterly Meeting of Essex, also one from the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London in the 5th mo 1816 all which were read and her company acceptable to us.

We have also the company of our friends Esther Griffin from Pinchase, Hannah Field from Newyork, Hannah Evans, Hannah Shinn and Hannah Lewis from Philadelphia, whose certificates were likewise read, and their company acceptable.

By the accounts from the Quarterly Meetings it appears that the following friends have been approved as Ministers Viz. Thomas Anthony of Greenwich, Anna Shinn of Providence, Sarah H Coffin of Nantucket, Warren Gifford of Dartmouth, Russell Davis of New Bedford, Obadiah Gould of Windham and Benjamin Fry of Sandwich State of New Hampshire; and that Gilbert Coffin of Nantucket Mary S Robinson of South Kingston and Johnson Page of Weare have been appointed to the station of Elders.

The Epistle from the Meeting for Sufferings of London for the last year was read to our instruction and edification. 1817

We have also received Epistles from Friends of the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio. which were read to our comfort & encouragement.

A Testimony from Westport Monthly Meeting approved by Sandwich Quarterly Meeting concerning our late friend Jeremiah Austin, was read which is directed to be recorded.

We appoint Walter Allen, Joseph Anthony, William Tallman, Enoch Breed, Rufus Norton, Moses Pierce & Benjamin Gray to audit our accounts with the Treasurer, propose the sum they may think necessary to be raised for the ensuing year, also to propose a friend to serve as Treasurer.

We appoint John Wilbour, Rowland Greene, Thomas Arnold, Abraham Barman Jr, William Almy, Samuel Tallman, William Jenkins, Edward Cobb, Thomas Rowland, William Dean & Wm Rotch Jn to prepare Epistles to the several Yearly Meetings.

We adjourn to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The Representatives have proposed the reappointment of William Rotch Jr for Clerk and Abraham Barman Jr for assistant Clerk, they are accordingly appointed for the year ensuing.

The Queries were read with Answers from all our Quarterly Meetings, by which it Appears That our Meetings for Worship and discipline have been generally attended by most friends. That Love and Unity are generally maintained dilligence guarded against, and care has been taken to end differences when they have appeared. That there are a number concerned to bring up those under their care in a manner comfortable to our wholesome discipline and to be good examples themselves. The Scriptures appear to be frequently read in our families, that although many friends appear careful in properly limiting the use of spirituous liquors yet several instances are acknowledged of their improper use. & tho a concern prevails for the support of our testimony against War yet we acknowledge several instances of its violation so far as to attend militia trainings in which the care of the Society has been extended.

Upon the consideration how much exercise has been excited particularly that in some important parts of our Christian Testimonies several deficiencies are acknowledged with a want of more brotherly care and caution both to Parents and Children, Whereupon we appoint Obadiah Davis, Micajah Collins, John Bailey, Rowland Greene, Thomas Woody to take the subject under consideration & prepare such

communication to the Quarterly Meeting and Yearly Meetings as may convey to them the solicitude and concern that has been manifested in this Meeting —

We adjourn to the third hour tomorrow afternoon.

4th day met by adjournment

A Testimony concerning our late friend Elisha Thornton from Smithfield Monthly Meeting approved by the Quarterly Meeting was read and is directed to be recorded.

Falmouth Quarterly Meeting having suggested to our consideration the propriety of removing this Meeting to a more Central place, we appoint Jonathan Dennis, Benjamin Trubot, Isaac Lapsley, Matthew Purinton, John Bailey, Peleg Mitchell, Barnard Brown, Tudock Smith, Nathan Pope, Edward Cobb, Ezekiel Coit, Paul Rogers, Silas Fisher and Hans Dow, to take the subject under their deliberate consideration and report their judgment thereupon at a future sitting of this Meeting.

The Records of the Meeting for sufferings for the last year were read and their attention to the subjects that came before them is satisfactory to this Meeting, the Friends who now compose that Meeting are continued to constitute a Meeting for sufferings for the ensuing year and Edward Cobb is appointed in addition thereto —

On reading the Minutes of the Meeting for sufferings we are informed by the report of their Committee for superintending the buildings for the Yearly Meeting School, "That the outside of the House is nearly completed, and that they think it will require in addition to former subscriptions, Seven thousand Dollars to finish and furnish the house," and it being an object which this Meeting feels a deep interest in having accomplished, we think it advisable to promote subscriptions therefor, during the sitting of this Meeting, whereupon we appoint Abraham Shearman Jr, James Scott William Buffum Jr Joseph Anthony, Abijah Chase, William Jenkins, Samuel Philbrick, Joseph Metcalf, Timothy Earl, Arnold Congdon, James Robinson, Jonathan Congdon & Prince Gardner, to take subscriptions for that purpose and report their progress to a future sitting —

We adjourn to the 10th hour tomorrow morning

18th day met by adjournment —

The following report was received from the Committee appointed yesterday — Viz "We your Committee on the subject of removing the Yearly Meeting to a more Central place, having met and weightily considered the same it is our united judgment that it will be best to refer the subject under the care of a Committee for further deliberation and investigation, and to report their judgment thereon to next Yearly Meeting — Signed in behalf of Com^e John Brown" Whereupon the subject is referred to our next Yearly Meeting under

m[illegible] of the same Committee together with Moses Brown, Mus. 1817
Jabez Evans, Rufus Jenkins, Walter Allen, Benjamin Hoag and
William Rotch Jr are Vassalborough Quarterly Meeting is at liberty
to appoint a friend in addition to the one who may be present
from that Meeting.

The Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia having in their
Epistle proposed for our consideration the subject contained
in the following paragraph — Viz.

"Among the weighty subjects which have at this time
"engaged our attention we have been led into a consideration
"of the necessity there is that the Body of our religious Society with-
"in extended on this Continent, might be possessed of a more intire
"unity in judging and transacting of its own affairs, Hence we have
"believed that if a conference were obtained by suitably qua-
"lified friends, appointed out of all the Yearly Meetings, it would
"under the guidance of Divine Wisdom prove a means
"of keeping the Society at large more fully consistent with
"our religious profession. This subject in brotherly freedom,
"and love in a desire for our mutual preservation, is now
"offered to your weighty consideration." And after being
solidly delivirated upon, we feel persuaded that under proper
care and caution, advantages to our Society, may be anticipated by
adopting at some future time the proposal of appointing suitable
friends in each Yearly Meeting, who under the guidance of Divine Wisdom,
might confer together and by that means have an opportunity
[illegible] situation, and of diffusing
each others views upon such subjects as may be interesting to the
preservation and harmony of the Body: And the further con-
sideration hereof is referred to the next Yearly Meeting.

The Committee on the Treasurers accounts made the following report
We your Committee appointed to settle the Treasurers accounts report
That we have examined and settled the same, and find in the Treasury
One hundred seventy nine dollars 7/100 We propose the sum of four
hundred Dollars to be raised the ensuing year, to be apportioned
the same as last year, and that Obadiah Brown be appointed Treasurer
Signd on behalf of the Committee — Walter Allen
Which report is accepted, and Obadiah Brown is reappointed Treasurer
for the ensuing year, and the sum of four hundred Dollars is required
to be forwarded to him in the following proportions Viz. Rhode
Island Quarterly Meeting one hundred and twenty Dollars, Nine
Mo. & Sandwich One hundred sixty five Falmouth Sixteen, Smithfield
Mo. & Vassalborough twelve and Dover Twenty dollars.

We adjourned to the Fourth hour this Afternoon.

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Afternoon met by adjournment —

The epistle to our brethren of the Yearly Meetings of London Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio were read approved and directed to be transcribed and forwarded to those meetings respectively —

Same advices to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings having been prepared by the Committee appointed thereon for, were read, and with some alterations approved, Copies of which are directed to be sent to each Quarterly Meeting, who are requested to forward Copies to each of their Monthly Meetings —

The Committee appointed yesterday made the following report

The Committee appointed to receive Subscriptions in aid of the Yearly Meeting School Fund, report that in addition to three thousand five hundred Dollars, subscribed on condition, that a further sum of the same amount should be subscribed payable in six Months, they have obtained Subscriptions to the amount of three thousand three hundred and fifteen Dollars $\frac{50}{100}$ $3315\frac{50}{100}$ of which has been paid to the Treasurer, and the remainder is payable on demand or within six months, and that one friend has subscribed One hundred Dollars a year during life, and another five Dollars a year for ten years, the first payments on which are included in the above sum of $3,715.50 - On behalf of the Committee

6m° 18. 1817. Abm Braman Jn

The several subscription papers are directed to be delivered to the Treasurer of the School Fund, And the Meeting for Sufferings is authorized to open the School, if the building be completed and suitable Instructors obtained, previous to our next Yearly Meeting —

Our beloved friend Mary Dazell from Great Britain having attended this Meeting, her Gospel labours herein have been to our edification and comfort, we feel much sympathy with her in her concern to visit this Country in her advanced age, and refer to our next Yearly Meeting the subject of preparing a Certificate hereof —

Under a grateful sense of the prevalence of Divine Love mercifully afforded us during our several sittings, by which our deliberations have been in much condescension, and harmony we conclude, intending to meet again next year on this Island at the usual time — Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London 1817

Dear Friends

We have received your Epistle of last year, together with your general Epistle, and they have been read in our Meeting to our edification and comfort.

These testimonials of brotherly love have a tendency to evince that this feeling is the bond that unites us together, and that this true badge of Discipleship has its springs in the love of God, as the source from whence can only proceed true love to Man.

The information which you communicate, that sentiments similar to those which appear to be spreading in this Country against War, are increasing in Europe, is cause of thankfulness. May it please him in whose hands it is to cause his light and his Truth to prevail in the Earth, that Nation shall not lift up sword against Nation, nor learn War any more.

This Meeting has been as large as usual, and in its sittings hath been mercifully favored with solemnity and quiet, under which we have been enabled to transact the concerns of Society in harmony. And notwithstanding there still remains affecting instances of defection within our borders from the purity of our principles and testimonies, yet we are encouraged to believe that the number of those who desire to serve the Lord in uprightness of heart are increasing, and we have the satisfaction to mention that there have been divers added to our Society since last year, some of whom if they keep their places in the Truth, and progress in obedience to its gracious manifestations are promising to be useful members. There is also encouragement to be derived from many of our beloved youth, who appear to be coming up in various places in the footsteps of the Flock of Christs companions, and who if they keep under the refining operation of that power which can only qualify for usefulness in the Church, will be found qualified to fill up the places of those who have been removed, and those who from the course of nature, may soon pass from works to rewards.

We are your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf of said Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

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To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Philadelphia

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle of the present Year has been received, by which we have been comforted in observing the concern that is therein manifested to guard and promote the precious testimonies which through the favour of Divine goodness have been given us to bear — some of which in earlier time were in a great measure confined to our worthy predecessors, but eventually those relative to the unchristian practices of war and slavery, the latter to the consecration of our minds have been largely participated in by individuals and nations, and we hope will be persevered in, until the abominable evil shall be exterminated from the civilized portion of the Globe. And may we not be encouraged to hope that the evil of War, now increasingly reprobated, may eventually become extinct, and the doctrine of Peace, which is daily gaining new advocates not immediately under our name, altho' the beginning is apparently small will at a future day pervade the Earth. In aid of this happy event, how necessary and important it is for us faithfully to guard against every violation of this precious testimony.

Although the State of Society as exhibited to our view, by answers to the Queries, discloses and callings that duly are manifested, yet we desire it may not administer too much discouragement to the faithful labourers among us, they know where to look for support, and the source whence strength is derived, and will be enabled to implore aid to meet the difficulties attendant on this Militant State: with the certain evidence that in the end if they persevere and faint not, their reward will be sure.

It is with satisfaction we observe that an Application to the General Government by your Meeting for sufferings on behalf of the Oppressed African race, had been seasonable, and obtained particular attention. Their violated rights have obtained a share of the concern of this Meeting, and altho' the pursuers of the foreign traffic appears to be shielded by their cunning devices against the execution of existing laws, we cherish the hope that our concern to check this evil may not prove abortive.

We cordially notice your proposal and unite in believing that a conference of Representatives appointed by the various Yearly Meetings in this extensive Country on such important concerns of Society as may then before them, would tend to preserve Friends a united

Body and strengthen their endeavours in promoting the
cause of Truth and Righteousness in the Earth. This Subject 1817
after being deliberated upon and discussed with becoming
freedom is referred to the consideration of our next Yearly
Meeting

Signed on behalf of the Yearly Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at New York.

Dear Friends

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable Epistle of the present year, on the reading of which together with those from other Yearly Meetings, our minds were renewedly affected under the humbling consideration that the Father of all our mercies, still condescends to unite our hearts in the bonds of brotherly love and Christian fellowship, and we trust that it is under the influence of a portion of this Love that we address you at this time.

Our Assembly at this season has been as fully attended as usual, and with you we can acknowledge that the Divine Canopy has overshadowed us, under the precious covering of which we have been enabled to transact the important concerns of the Church in much harmony and condescension. And although many deficiencies are apparent amongst us, yet we are encouraged to believe that the watchmen on the walls are awake and that the goodly inheritance transmitted to us by our pious predecessors at the expence of much suffering, will continue to be preserved.

It is to us an animating consideration that the pure principles of the Gospel, the principles of Peace, seem to be more widely extended at the present day, than at any former period, and it is our concern, that we as a Religious Society may continue to exalt the Standard of Truth in the eyes of the Nations that others seeing the light thereof may be induced to follow on until the Kingdoms of this World, shall become the Kingdom of Christ

During our deliberations on the State of Society, the proper education of Children and the sacred obligations which Parents owe to them, has claimed and received our serious consideration, under the exercise of which much excellent counsel has been handed, and we trust our minds are renewedly stimulated to endeavour to pursue the important purpose for which we were created, that in the end we may receive the salutation of Well-done. — We are your friends & brethren

Signed On behalf of the Meeting Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

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To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Baltimore.

Dear Friends

We are sensible that without the aid of the blessed principle which we profess to follow, it would be in vain to address you, but as our minds have at this time witnessed the consoling influence of the heavenly father's love we have remembered our distant brethren. We have received your acceptable Epistle of last year which together with those from the other Yearly Meetings on this Continent & one from London have proved an evidence that Friends however distant from each other remain to be brethren bound to the same cause, walking by the same rule and minding the same thing.

Accounts have been received of the removal of several of the ancient pillars in society who have been lights in the World in their day and generation, and we are comforted in the prospect that there are in the various branches of this Meeting among the youth, who are through a submission to the qualifying influence of truth preparing to succeed them in stepping

Our attention has been at this time expressly directed to the interesting subject of a guarded education, and our tender feelings called into lively exercise, and much solicitude felt and expressed that parents sensible of the qualification which is derived from that wisdom which cometh from above to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. And the children have been invited in tender solicitude to maintain the dignity of those important testimonies transmitted to us, by yielding the government of their minds to the influence of that precious principle which first gathered us to be a people. That the dear youth who have been visited with the day spring from on high, abide faithful under the humbling operation of the Cross of Christ, and more become crucified to the World and the allurements thereof, cheerfully submitting to all the conflicts which are the consequences of a departure from the light of Christ, as necessary for their further refinement. May those of this description duly appreciate the necessity of early dedication, by which they will not only reap the enriching reward of that peace which the World cannot give, but contribute also to the happiness of the fathers and the mothers, who have been as standard bearers by affording a comfortable prospect that instead of the fathers will be the Children qualified to espouse the cause, the prosperity of which to them has been more desirable than the increase of Corn, Wine or Oil, may we prize our privileges dear as a people as members of a Society that is called to separate from the World, & to maintain those testimonies which have been transmitted by our ancestors, under the Seal of their sufferings.

We notice in several of the Epistles received at this time that a concern for the amelioration of the condition of the African Race still prevails & many have been excited & many pertinent remarks made on this interesting subject, and we feel disposed to evince our willingness to cooperate with our brethren for their relief when in the unfoldings of wisdom it may appear that any active measure on the part of this Meeting will aid the cause of this much afflicted people in restoring them to their rights.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia.

Dear Friends

Having been permitted to meet together again in our annual Assembly, and to participate in that love which is the bond of Christian Fellowship, we are excited to salute you, and to acknowledge that our minds have been quickened in affectionate remembrance by reading your Epistle of the 5th month last, and a deep solicitude hath pervaded our minds that we might be mutually encouraged to persevere and to hold fast our confidence in our holy helper. We have had occasion sorrowfully to regret the continuance of many deficiencies among us, and have been led to view that of a want of devotion, a want of Love to our gracious Creator as the source from which these various defects proceed. These still continue to excite concern and labour among the brethren, and we are not without a hope, that this travail for the right order of things will be blessed. Although these delinquencies are obvious and greatly to be lamented, we find much cause of gratitude we occasionally behold among the rising generation, minds illuminated by the Divine principle, and are giving evidences of their obedience to it, hence a hope arises in those who are bearing the Burthen of the day, that these will come to their aid and be successors in the glorious work.

The concern of this Meeting to establish an institution for the guarded education of our Children, is ever exercisingly interesting to our minds, and we have reason to expect that such an Edifice under the care of this Meeting will ere long be opened for their reception.

Signed on behalf of said Meeting

Wm Roth Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in North Carolina.

Dear Friends

The reading in this Assembly of the Epistolary communications from our distant Brethren, has afforded us renewed evidence, that as the principle we profess is one, its effects are the same wherever it operates, producing as its fruits, a concern not only for individual improvement under the forming hand of Divine Love; but for the advancement in the cause of truth & righteousness, of all the different classes of Society.

Among the various objects that have claimed our attention at this time, has been a deep felt solicitude, that the parents & guardians of the Children and youth of our Society, may duly estimate the magnitude of the trust confided to them, and be led to seek for that qualification which would enable them rightly to educate, instruct, and govern

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this interesting charge — Believing that as this qualification is waited for and experienced to arise, "the hearts of the fathers will be turned to the children, but where its constraining & sweetening influence, "the hearts of the children will be turned to the fathers."

Many considerable number of the youth have been with us at this time, many of whom have evinced by the solidity of their deportment, that they have made and are making an early and acceptable dedication of heart. We have been encouraged in believing, that as such are concerned to hold on their way Zion-ward, they will be enabled faithfully to maintain the many precious testimonies, which our worthy predecessors, (many of whom was valiant for an ancestor) were concerned to bear, and become fathers to fill the places of the fathers in the Church, when these are removed from works to rewards.

The concern expressed in your acceptable Epistle of last year for the oppressed African race, has excited the lively sympathy of this Assembly, and though the way has not appeared to open at the time for any application to the Legislature on their behalf, yet feeling our minds renewedly engaged in their favour, and we trust that these feelings will not become dormant, so long as any cause for them continues to exist.

With us as with you, many deficiencies in the faithful discharge of our testimonies are but too apparent. The neglect in the attendance of meetings instituted for the worship of our great Creator and Preserver, has justly been ascribed to the want of that love, which it is the first and greatest duty of man to cherish, and to the same cause may be attributed the other defections from principle which have been presented to our view, and become the subjects of our deliberations at this time.

May then the concerned members of our Society, both with us and you, be increasingly enabled, by turning for aid to the fountain of love, to build up the Walls, and restore the waste places of Zion, and may the negligent within our borders, be induced to turn with obedient hearts to those manifestations of light which can alone set them free from the thraldom of transgression — That set as a city upon a hill that cannot be hid, we may exhibit to the surrounding people, an example of the fruits of the Spirit, embracing love, joy, peace, meekness & long suffering.

Having been favoured to transact the affairs of this large Assembly with much unanimity, we salute you in that measure of Gospel Love which has been felt to prevail, and are your friends & brethren

Signed on behalf of the Meeting Wm Rotch jr Clerk

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To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ohio.

Dear Friends

Your acceptable Epistle of the ninth month last has been duly received in this our Annual Assembly, and in the comfortable evidence of the remembrance of our distant Brethren, we are reminded of the Apostolic injunction "let brotherly love continue".

In reviewing the State of our Society as exhibited in the answers to the queries a deep feeling has been excited many pertinent remarks have been made on various subjects and we trust the attention of many of our members has been afresh awakened to the necessity of greater dedication and faithfulness. Under the power and dominion of a worldly spirit will be found the source of many deficiencies still apparent among us, affording grief and exercise to the honest hearted, and we feel an earnest desire in our minds that an increasing concern may be felt to "lay aside every weight and the sin that doth easily beset us" thus shall we more evidently experience a rising into newness of life.

In looking over the different parts of the family, the beloved youth have renewedly met our minds, as a very interesting branch of it, a branch whereon our best hopes depend for the support of our testimonies, when those who are now actively engaged for the cause and honour of truth shall be called to rest from their labours. And while it is our concern to extend to this rising race in the vineyard all the advantages to be derived from a guarded and pious education, may they above all be favoured to witness the safety and happiness which result from a faithful attention to the gifted principle of life in their own minds, for we have no greater joy than to behold children walking in the truth.

The use of ardent spirits continues to claim our notice as an evil not wholly extirpated from our borders, and may our Society everywhere maintain that care & vigilance which becometh a people desirous of shunning every appearance of evil a people zealous of good works. The cause of the oppressed Africans is frequently recurring to our minds, & may our hearts still be kept open to the consideration of what remains to be done on their behalf by us as a society or as individuals

That of the civilization of our Indian brethren is not forgotten, we rejoice at your encouragement to persevere therein, & we derive a satisfaction from all that appertains to christian Benevolence.

This our Annual Assembly hath been large, we have been favoured with the company of divers of our Brethren from afar, much instruction communicated. The affairs of the Church have been conducted in brotherly harmony and our hearts have been comforted together in the Lord.

With the salutation of love we are your friends and brethren

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

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To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings here to belonging.

Dear Friends.

In the answers to the Queries received from our remote Meetings, we have noticed divers deficiencies which still exist among us, and have felt deep solicitude for their removal, One of these deficiencies is a prevailing neglect in the attendance of our religious meetings, particularly of those in the middle of the week. Those who have been the cause of this complaint have occasioned much exercise of mind to many Brethren, and believing it to be a matter of much importance to you and your tender offspring, we are thus induced in much love to address you on the subject, and desire you to examine yourselves, that the Lord may be pleased in his great mercy & condescending goodness to shew you where your standing is, What you are building upon, and enable you to come forward with more dedication & faithfulness in this important duty. We are also desirous that all friends in the attendance of meetings endeavour strictly to keep to the hour, that we do not when met remain about the house, engaged in conversation on worldly subjects, which so unfits the mind for divine worship, but quietly take their seats under a solemn impression of the important service for which they are assembled, and retire from our religious meetings in the same manner.

And dear friends, let us not confine these seasons of retirement and waiting upon the Lord to meetings for publick worship, but that we frequently engage therein in our own families, and when our hands are employed in our lawful concerns, that we may feel our strength renewed in him, that our conversation may be seasoned with grace.

We have also observed in some of the answers the want of love and unity, that ancient mark of discipleship. We fervently desire those who may feel a lack of this, to watch unto prayer, that the Father of mercies may enable them to remove everything that obstructs the free circulation thereof, for he that love th not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen.

We have been renewedly impressed at this time with the belief that children should be devoted from their early years, to a guarded and religious education, that as their minds are then susceptable of very lasting impressions, it becomes a concern of much magnitude that right principles be early instilled, and a bias of their inclinations directed to whatever is good & virtuous,

believing that a measure of this kind adequate to their tender years is implanted in the minds of children, which if improved and advanced in, will procure them heaven to themselves while here, and a crown of blessedness hereafter. That in order to be thus rightly instructed, it is necessary that parents and tutors be acquainted with that sanctifying power which brings into subjection the will and passions of the creature, that in this they labour with unwearied diligence to suppress the very buddings of evil, and cultivate every appearance of good. and how careful should the Guardians of Youth be that they may be preserved from such company as would be hurtful to them, beginning in very early life, and continuing an unremitted care until they arrive at mature age, and thereby they would be much preserved from that unsuitable connexion in marriage, which has sometimes taken place, where this care has been wanting.

We also feel a renewed desire to recommend to our brethren that the use of spirituous liquors be wholly confined as prescribed by our discipline to medical purposes, and that even then it be avoided where suitable substitutes can be procured; that there may not be the least cause for contributing to this baneful evil, which so sorrowfully prevails in our land. And that we may so live under the government of the Prince of peace; that our conduct in every respect may evince, that we are engaged to support a faithful testimony against the bearing of arms. —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Robson Clerk

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1818

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England held at Rhode Island, beginning with public Meetings for Worship at Newport & Portsmouth on first day the 11th day of 6th mo 1818 and on second day morning the 15th at Newport for Discipline.

Accounts being received from all our Quarterly Meetings the Representatives therein named are, For

Rhode Island, Oliver Chase, Stephen Gould, William Peckham
Daniel Anthony and Nicholas Congdon.

Salem, Micajah Collins, William Dean, Samuel Philbrick,
Daniel Gove and John Page.

Sandwich, John R Davis, John Bailey Robert Brayton Philip
Dunham, Joseph Tripp, Resolved Howland & Sam[l] Rodman,

Falmouth, William Rickett, William Cobb, Obadiah Gould & Nathan Pope

Smithfield Levi Lapham, Moses Aldrich, Jonathan Troy & Walter Allen

Vassalborough, Joseph Howland, Moses Cooper and Joseph Sampson,

Dover, Benjamin Fry, Paul Rogers Levi Beane & Ezekiel Hait.

all present except our friend Paul Rogers who has deceased since his appointment.

All the Quarterly Meetings inform that they have directed their several proportions of Stock paid to our Treasurer.

We have at this time the company of our friends Gerard T Hopkins from Baltimore John Reid from Ohio, Henry Pratt from Hudson, also their Companions Izrak Proctor, Thomas Wickersham and Elihu Bunker, also Charles Marriot from Hudson whose Certificates were read, and their Company acceptable.

The Printed general Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of London, together with Epistles to us from those of London Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore Virginia North Carolina and Ohio were read to our edification and encouragement.

We appoint Baniah Collins, Ezra Collins, Josiah Shove Sam[l] Rodman Jr, Noah Reed, Joseph Howland and Benjamin Fry to settle our accounts with the Treasurer report the State thereof, propose the sum that may appear necessary to raise the ensuing year, and also to propose a friend for Treasurer.

We appoint John Wilbur, Thomas Arnold, William Avery Edward Cobb, James Scott, Micajah Collins, Ladock Smith, Samuel Philbrick, William Dean, Rowland Greene, John R Davis Abraham Sherman Jr, Benjamin Percival, Eber Slade Samuel Rodman Thomas A Greene and William Rotch Jr to prepare Essays of Epistles

if any opens to the several Yearly Meetings from whom we have at this time received Epistles.

The following report was read and after consideration accepted.

The Committee appointed at last Yearly Meeting to deliberate upon the proposition for removing the Yearly Meeting to a more central place, met in the eighth month last at Lynn, and adjourned to this day, and having at this time again diffused the subject, we hereby inform the Meeting, that way has not opened, to come to a conclusion that it is best at present, to make any alteration as to the place of holding said Meeting

Portsmouth 6mo 17. 1818 On behalf of the Committee Wm Rotch Jr

We adjourn to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment

The Representatives having nominated William Rotch Jr for Clerk and Abraham Shearman Jr for assistant Clerk, they are appointed to that service for the ensuing year.

The Queries have been read with the answers from our several Quarterly Meetings and an opening the State of Society thereby. Our minds have been brought under much exercise, in observing that there still remains cause of complaint, upon many important branches of our Testimony. The following is a summary thereof

It appears that our Meetings have been kept up and most of our members diligent in their attendance, others are remiss, mostly free from unbecoming behaviour, except some instances of Sloping. Love and unity appear to be generally preserved and detraction guarded against. Care is preserved with most Friends to bring up their Children in a consistent manner, and to be examplary themselves, but others are too regardless hereof. The holy Scriptures are frequently read in our Families.

Our Testimony against Spirituous Liquors appears to be maintained altho not without exceptions, and we are affected by information from one Meeting, that some indulge themselves in the common use of them. Altho our Testimony against War is generally preserved, yet there are recent instances of cause to fear, that without great care this Precious Testimony is in danger of not being supported, which having exercised this Meeting, appropriate advices have been agreed upon to be sent to all our meetings. Moderation and Temperance is reported to be generally preserved. The necessities of the Poor attended to, and a general care prevails for the settling accounts and paying debts. yet there are exceptions hereto. Care is taken to deal with offenders and to place judgment where necessary according to Discipline. Adjourned to the 3 hour tomorrow after

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7th day met by adjournment.

By the minutes from the Quarterly Meetings it appears that the following Friends have been approved as Ministers, viz. Henry Knowles of South Kingston, Joseph Tripp of Westport, Tabitha Gifford of Dartmouth, Susannah Swift of Sandwich, Mary Card of New Bedford, Lydia Hannifaid and William Rickett of Falmouth, Phebe Cobb of Windham and Zacheus Bowerman of Sidney, and also that there have been appointed to the Station of Elders, Stephen Gould and Susannah Hathaway of Rhode Island, Joseph Buffinton of Swansey, Denas Gardiner of Nantucket, Israel Jones of Durham, Lavina Southwick of Smithfield, Elijah Hartsuff and Lydia Allen of Richmond - Likewise that the Ministry of Stephen Buffinton of Dartmouth hath been disapproved.

We are informed by a minute from Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that Jeremiah Austin had appealed from their Judgment in the twelfth month last, confirming the Judgment of Nantucket Monthly Meeting for the Northern District in denying unity with him, and he now appearing to prosecute his appeal, we appoint Augustus Lapham, Thomas Rowland, Sylvester Wicker, John Page, Estes Newall, Matthew Purington, Noah Reed, William Cobb, Nathan Pike, Ludovick Smith, Jesse Ralph, Rowland Rathburn, Joseph Rowland, Moses Sleeper, Joseph Sampson, Ezekiel Hart, John Hoag and Enoch Hoag, to hear his representation of the case together with that of the Committee of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting, carefully to consider the same, and report their judgment at a future sitting.

Having the company of our friend Elizabeth Coggeshall at this Meeting, her Certificate from the Monthly Meeting of New York and Quarterly Meeting of Westbury were read as also that of her Companion Margaret Marriott from the Monthly Meeting of Hudson, their company is acceptable to us.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings for the last year were read, and the attention that has been manifested to the business that came before them, meets our approbation, and the Friends who constituted that Meeting last year, excepting our friend Paul Rogers deceased, are again continued to that service for the ensuing year.

It appearing by the minutes of the aforesaid Meeting that the House for the Yearly Meeting boarding School is nearly completed and that the School may probably be opened before Winter, we therefore refer the care thereof to the Meeting for Sufferings in conjunction with a School Committee, which may be appointed by the

Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, they to procure the necessary 1818
Superintendents and instructors, and give notice to Friends of our several
Quarterly Meetings when the School will be ready for the admission
of Children, and in all respects to act in behalf of this Meeting in
the establishment and regulation thereof, until our next Yearly Meeting.

The subject communicated from the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia
last year, and referred to this Meeting, being again brought under con-
sideration, and it not appearing that any usefulness can arise
from our taking any step therein at this time, the matter is therefore
referred to a future Meeting.

We adjourn to the 10th hour tomorrow.

17th day met by adjournment.

The Committee of accounts made report that they have examined
the Treasurers accounts and find a balance in our favour $1. 32/100
they recommend Six hundred Dollars to be raised and that Obadiah
Brown Brown be continued Treasurer. He is accordingly appointed
Treasurer for the ensuing year, and the several Quarterly Meetings
are requested to forward to him their respective proportions of
Six hundred Dollars Viz' Rhode Island $180. Salem $60 Sandwich
$232 Falmouth $20. Smithfield $60 Pascalborough $18. Dover $30.

This Meeting having understood that by a late Law of the United States
provision has been made for granting pensions to those who served
in the Revolutionary War as Soldiers and who are now in necessitous
circumstances, and also that several who are now in Membership
with us, may by said Law be entitled to a pension from the Govern-
ment, it has brought exercise on this Meeting, and after some
deliberation thereon it was referred to a Committee who having
to consider the
same, recommended the adoption of the following Minute, which
after solid consideration is approved and directed to be sent to all
our Quarterly and Monthly Meetings. Viz'

It appearing by accounts from several of our Meetings, that there
are some of our Members, who by a late Law of the United States are
authorized (as persons in necessitous circumstances) to receive pensions
from the Government, for military services performed by them in
the revolutionary War before they made profession with us. The
cases of such, wherever they may be, have in a feeling manner
claimed our serious and weighty attention; and it is our united
sense and judgment, that it will not be consistent with that faithful
testimony for the Truth against war, which all the Members of
our Religious Society are required to bear, for any such to avail
themselves of those pensions.

It is therefore advised and earnestly recommended, to all our
Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, where any cases of this kind may occur
seasonably to extend their brotherly care and attention to all such Friends,
and in a spirit of sympathy and tenderness, endeavour to strengthen and
impress their minds with a suitable sense of the necessity, of a cheerful and

1818 willing
sacrafice of the property thus lendered to them, as well for their
own peace, as the support of our Christian testimony, against the unrighteous
and cruel practice of War.

At the same time, Friends are recommended to bear in mind
our anciently established practice, so rebutable to our Society, of
contributing to the comfortable support of the necessitous. And
where the outward circumstances of any of those alluded to
may require assistance, it is advised, that a liberal hand of
kindness be extended to them, offering them all that relief and
comfort which their several conditions may need,

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon met by adjournment.

The Committee upon the appeal of Jeremiah Austin made the
following report.

The Committee appointed on the appeal of Jeremiah Austin
from the judgment of Nantucket Monthly Meeting for the Northern
District, and from the judgment of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting
affirmative thereof, have met and fully heard the Appellant
and the Committee of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting on the subject
of appeals, and after a serious & deliberate consideration of the case, are
unite in opinion that the judgment of Sandwich Quarterly
Meeting and Nantucket Monthly Meeting ought to be confirmed.

Newport 1st of 8th mo. 1818

Augustus Lapham
Thomas Howland
Sylvester Wickes
John Page
Estes Newhall
Matthew Purinton
Moses Sleeper
Noah Read
William Cobb
Nathan Pope
Ladock Smith
Jesse Batley
Rowland Rathbun
Joseph Howland

Joseph Lampson
Ezekiel Hoit
John Hoag
Enoch Hoag

which after due consideration is approved by this Meeting and
the Judgment of Sandwich Quarterly Meeting is accordingly
confirmed.

Epistles to our Friends of the Yearly Meetings of London
Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia North Carolina
and Ohio, were produced by the Committee appointed for that
service, and after being read & considered with such alterations
as appeared necessary, the Clerk is directed to have them tran-
scribed and sign the same on behalf of this Meeting and forward
them respectively.

An Epistle being also prepared for our Quarterly and Monthly
Meetings, it was read, approved and Copies directed to be forwarded
to said Meetings.

A Certificate in behalf of our beloved friend Mary Nafftel was
prepared read approved and directed to be signed by the Clerk.

The Clerk is directed to certify on the Certificates of our Friends who have at this time been with us, that their company has been acceptable to us.

We have thankfully to acknowledge that through the several sittings of this Meeting, we have been favoured with the evidence of the Heavenly Fathers love, whereby we have been enabled to attend to the concerns of the Society that have come before us with much satisfaction, And under a fresh sense of the continuance thereof we conclude, proposing to meet again on this Island at the usual time next year —

Signed on behalf of the Meeting Wm Tatchett Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in London

Dear Friends

The feeling of that love which flowth not from human affections, but is derived from the fountain of good is indeed precious, an evidence thereof we have witnessed, in your acceptable Epistle of last year, which has been read amongst us, to our satisfaction and encouragement.

Assembled at this time to transact the weighty concerns of Society, many brethren have we trust felt the necessity of deep inward retirement each one for himself, that thus seeking to and depending alone on the great Captain of our salvation we might spiritually occupy our allotted places in the Church and experience ability rightly to move forward in the work before us.

On reviewing the State of Society as exhibited at this time, whilst they evidence that in the various departments there are Brethren spiritually alive and fervently engaged for the welfare of Zion; yet the deficiencies also manifest have been cause of mourning, and have begotten in some of our minds a fear whether in this day of outward ease we may not too far content ourselves in a state of partial redemption, not witnessing a dying daily to self, and that renovation of Spirit, in which alone, we can be owned as living members of the true Church, and rest on that Rock against which every assault of the enemy will be in vain.

We continue to witness in this Country an increasing zeal manifest among the different classes and denominations of men unitedly to labour for the attainment of various philanthropic objects. and we feel desirous that their awakened attention thereto, may be blessed to the improvement of Mankind. Yet many concerned friends among us have felt we believe a godly fear, lest some of our brethren,

in uniting in these labours under the influence of human feeling and the example of others may suffer loss, and we are renewedly impressed with a sense of the great necessity of humbly waiting to know the true leader to go before us in this as in every other important step, having the human will and wisdom in subjection that we may act or forbear as best Wisdom may direct.

We have at this time felt renewed evidence that many of our youth are yielding obedience to the light of Truth manifested in the secret of the heart, may this class with us and you, keep their eye single to that unerring guide, not giving back in the day of trial, but dwelling in patience, that they may daily witness the Chaff to be consumed, remembering that the crown of life is entered only by those who bear the Cross of Christ, and abide with him in Sufferings

Finally brethren amidst all the fear and concern with which our minds have been impressed, from the weaknesses too manifest among us, we have also the consolation to believe, that there are not only the more advanced, but of the middle aged and the youth, who can say in truth, that they prefer the welfare of Zion to their chiefest joy; and we are encouraged in the hope, that we may witness in our Religious Society not merely a form to Religion but a prevalence of its life and power — We salute you in much brotherly love and remain in your Friends and brethren

On behalf of the Meeting Wm Rotch Jr

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends

At this our annual assembly we have received your acceptable Epistle of the fourth month last, by which we learn with satisfaction, that the minds of many brethren have been in degree prepared to unite in fervent travail for the faithful support of the precious testimonies of which our Religious society have made profession, and by which we have been distinguished.

We are sensible that in this day of apparent ease and relief from the trials and sufferings that awaited our predecessors, there are many allurements to deviation, and that without a careful circumspect regard to the intimations of the blessed Truth, we are liable to swerve from the purity of our profession and bring a reproach to the cause we have espoused, that an increased individual concern may so prevail among us, as to preserve from a result so afflictive, is a fervent desire of our minds.

We feel at this time a tender solicitude, that the beloved Youth 1818
may be encouraged to abide in the early visitations of our heavenly
father's love, whereby they may become of the number of those
to whom this comfortable language of the Spirit to the Church
shall apply, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first
"resurrection on such the second death hath no power, but shall
"reign with him"; notwithstanding you may have to experi-
ence suffering like a day of judgment and resurrection, of all within
you, and the passing away of the first heaven and the first earth
and there be no more sea. Yet by a faithful abidance therein,
a settlement will be obtained in him, who will wipe away all
tears, and bring you not only to view, but into a state, described
by a City the Streets whereof were of pure Gold and Walls garnished
with precious Stones, and a pure river of Water of life proceeding
intirely from the Throne of God and the Lamb, and make you
fruitful as trees on either side of the river, bringing forth fruits
in season.

Our distance from the States that give countenance to the
slavery of our fellow men, prevents us in great measure from
personally witnessing the abominable internal traffic, carried
on in the persons of ardescendents from the African race, Yet
many among us feelingly commiserate their suffering
situation, and altho it is not a subject that has at this time
claimed the particular concern and attention of this Meeting,
yet we trust a right opening thereto, would be readily embraced
to give further support to a Testimony dear to us.

The Committee who have had in charge the Building our
Boarding School house, have reported, that it is nearly com-
pleted and will probably be furnished for the reception of Scholars
before the ensuing Winter. We derive encouragement from
your communication of the continued benefit derived from
the institution at Westtown, and are strengthened in the hope and
belief that the rising generation particularly may derive the
advantages anticipated therefrom.

The subject of a joint Committee of Conference to represent
the prospects and feelings that may emanate therefrom toward
an improvement of the Discipline of our several Yearly Meetings
has been revived again at this time, but as no way opened for any
movement therein, it has been referred to a future Meeting.

We affectionately salute you and are your friends & brethren
On behalf of the Meeting

Wm. Rotch Jr Clerk

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1818

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in New York

Dear Friends

On turning our minds towards the various branches of our widely extended Society, we are again induced to address you, from feelings of brotherly Affection, originating in the trust in the Spring of life. Let us dear friends endeavour to keep a single eye to that divine power which if abode in will enable us to love one another in and for the Truth alone, whereby we can experimentally adopt the language of Christ, "whosoever shall do the will of my father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother." herein would be witnessed a union and communion of spirit with all those who are advancing in the growth from a Child to a perfect Man in Christ, that whether outwardly gathered or separated, a participation of spirit, a union of soul will be known, giving evidence of the reality of that Divine power which only can unite us unto itself and enable us to live by faith therein. And herein the knowledge of the Lord will be witnessed to cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, the whole earth being swallowed up in the love of God, he being our Alpha and Omega our all in all.

While we sorrowfully observe the prevalence of many weaknesses among us, in regard to the maintaining our Christian testimonies we are encouraged in the belief that an advancement has been and is making in the support of some of them, particularly against the use of Spirituous liquors, a practice so pernicious to mankind, so destructive to Society —

Our minds have been at this time renewedly exercised with desires for the uniform preservation of our testimony against the Spirit of war in all its variety and appearances, being fully sensible that in the present day, the expectations of many are placed on us, and that it is very important that we individually and collectively give due and consistent support by example to this precious principle, so essential to an advancement in the Truth — a testimony which is gaining in the minds of many people, and which we are sensible can make no further advancement in the circumscribing influence of Divine love is yielded to and received in the heart, becoming its sole director and support

We duly received your acceptable epistle of last month which was read to our comfort and satisfaction —

We remain your friends and brethren
on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Baltimore;

Dear Friends

Being again permitted to meet in the important capacity of a Yearly Meeting, we have had our minds directed to many considerations connected with the welfare of our Religious Society, and have not been insensible to that influence which unites together in the bond of Christian fellowship, wherein we trust we have been enabled to transact the weighty concerns that have come before us, in much brotherly harmony.

We are sensible with you, that we live in an eventful period, wherein the blessed light of Truth, is increasingly illuminating the minds of many, and we feel disposed to recommend a faithful attention to its heavenly teachings, that its quickening and operating principle, may have its full effect, which if experienced we shall become submissive and obedient in all things, and be enabled to perform with propriety all our social and religious duties through him and at the conclusion thereof, when this Mortal shall put on immortality we may hope to be permitted to join the Saints and angels in celebrating the Redeemers praise.

We received your Epistle of the last Year, which has been read to our encouragement. We derive satisfaction from hearing you still feelingly sympathize with the oppressed African Race, and also that you retain a lively interest in the civilization of the Indian Nations, May your concern and your efforts be so blessed as that in due time the principles of Truth may be more and more spread in the Earth.

The guarded and religious education of our youth still holds a prominent place in our minds, the subject as you justly remark embraces views of unspeakable importance, and as we apprehend it was the Truth that first awakened and has kept alive this concern, we are encouraged to hope that a blessing will rest upon our exertions. We may inform you that our Boarding School is expected to be in operation in the course of the present year.

With the Salutation of love we are your friends and brethren - on behalf of the Meeting

Henry Roth jr Clerk

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1818

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Virginia.

Dear Friends

Having our minds clothed as we trust with a portion of that Love which binds us together as brethren and members of the same Family, we again affectionately salute you, and acknowledge the reception of your Epistle of the present year.

Our deliberations on the various subjects which have claimed our attention at this season have been conducted with much brotherly harmony, and we trust have been measurably owned by him who is the great head of the Church, and who remains to be the alone sufficiency of his people —

Some of the deficiencies reported in the answers from our several Quarterly Meetings, have claimed our serious consideration, and a concern has been felt, that the exercise manifested herein that account may not be lost. but that those who bear the weight of the burthen on their shoulders may continue their labours in the subordinate Meetings until they shall have convincingly reached the minds of those who furnish cause for complaint —

The important subject of a proper education of the children of people of Colour, referred to in your Epistle, perhaps has been too much neglected in every part of our Country, since we cannot but view it as one of the most effectual means of raising them from the situation in which they are now too generally found, and placing them in such stations as they might occupy with usefulness to themselves and to others, and while we are sensible of the arduous duties which must devolve on you in particular, in relation to this class of the community, and while we sympathize with you in the difficulties you may have to encounter in your exertions on their behalf, permit us to express a hope, that discouragements may not be suffered to prevail, remembering that all things which are done in the right spirit and in the right time, will eventually work together for good.

And may the devoted labourers in every part of the heritage be encouraged to persevere in their several allotments, until the minds of those who are now under the preparing hand, shall be strengthened and qualified to succeed in their places, that thus the ranks may be preserved unbroken, and the cause in which we are engaged be faithfully maintained —

With the salutation of Love we are your friends & brethren

on behalf of the Meeting Wm Robertson Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in North Carolina. 1818

Dear Friends

Through the continuance of Divine favour, we have met again in our annual Assembly, and received your acceptable Epistle of the 11th month last, which was read to our satisfaction.

Our Meeting has been nearly as large as usual, in which we had had the company of a considerable number of our beloved youth, among whom we trust there are those, who have in good measure submitted to the humbling influence of that principle which is truly Christ[illegible] and we feel deeply interested in the preservation of such, whether with us or with you, may they witness a continued obedience to the heavenly monitions, thereby growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to follow the footsteps of his companions.

By the accounts which we have received from our respective Quarterly Meetings, we sorrowfully discover that divers deficiencies still exist amongst us, in regard to the supporting our religious testimonies, for the removal of which deficiencies, a lively concern has been manifested in this Meeting, and among other things that of a faithful maintainance of our Testimony against War has claimed our solid attention with much solicitude, that while the light, and peaceable Spirit of the Gospel which early dawned in our society, shines more and more in the hearts of many others, all under our profession both with you and us, may experience an advancement, and increasingly evince by our example, in all our intercourse with men, that we live in the temper and spirit of that principle which invariably breaths Good will to men. It was this principle we believe which stimulated your friends to interpose on behalf of the injured and Oppressed Africans and it is the prayer of some of our hearts, that your labours on their behalf may be blessed and crowned with success. This love which excites our near sympathy for their sufferings, would it permitted to have the government enable all to avoid every species of oppression without distinction of colour or condition.

In transacting the weighty concerns which have come before us we have thankfully to acknowledge the extension of Divine regard, whereby we have been preserved in unanimity and harmony.

We conclude and remain your friends & brethren

on behalf of the Meeting

Wm Robertson Clerks

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1818

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ohio.

Dear Friends,

We are again permitted to assemble, and have taken in to view the State of our Society, for the welfare of which and the preservation of the Testimonies transmitted from our Ancestors, we encouragingly find many are engaged in the various departments of society from Age to Youth, evincing that this part of the Lords vineyard, is in his remembrance, and partaking of the blessing of his visitation yet such are the effects of a want of due attention to the visiting power, supplanted by a love of the world, that deficiencies in faithfully bearing our Christian Testimonies are still obvious. many minds have been exercised on these accounts, and a solicitude felt that that brotherly care we profess to exercise one towards another may be affectionately extended to those individuals in their private abatements, who are thus contributing to eclipse the beauty and comliness of our profession.

We notice with interest the field of labour which is opening to you with the much injured Indian people, may you continue to care for them, watching for the hand of brotherly aid and sympathy, and may the beloved youth avail themselves of the opportunity afforded. and enlisting in the fulness of their strength and profiting by the steps of those who are going before, render this people additional advantages, And dear Young Friends, it is our concern that you may keep near to the counsel of him who has begun the work in your hearts, it being only as you attend thereto that you can make advancement in the work of righteousness yourselves or be qualified to be instrumental in helping others, and it is only as we keep under the refining operation of Divine power from step to step in our progress, that we have ground to hope, that He that has begun the work, will carry it on to its completion,

The attention of this meeting to the subject of a guarded Education has so far advanced that a boarding school under our direction will probably be opened the present season.

In the several sittings of our Meeting Heavenly regard has been mutually felt, and we trust under its influence, the concerns which have claimed our attention have been conducted with harmony. And dear Friends in token of our love we would remind every class of Society of the necessity to attend to the voice of the true Shepherd following steply step his unerring counsel and instead of depending upon past experience forget the thing that are behind pressing forward toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Meeting Wm Rotch Jr Clerk

FROM THE

YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS FOR NEW-ENGLAND,

HELD ON RHODE-ISLAND,

FROM THE 14TH TO THE 17TH DAY OF THE SIXTH MONTH, 1818,

TO THE QUARTERLY AND MONTHLY MEETINGS HERETO BELONGING.

DEAR FRIENDS,

THE deficiences unfolded to our view in the Answers to the Queries, have been deeply exercising to the minds of many present, and have called forth the expression of a lively concern for their removal. We are aware, that next to the influence of the Spirit of Truth itself, immediately operating on the minds of those who have hitherto neglected its reproofs and invitations, and thus become the objects of these complaints; the labours of concerned and faithful Friends, in their respective Meetings, as they become qualified for this, by the influence of the same Spirit, is the source from which we are to expect the most extensive usefulness:—Yet we have felt unwilling to retire from this Assembly, without attempting, under some measure, as we humbly trust, of the influence of Divine love, to address our absent Brethren on some of the interesting subjects, in regard to the state of Society, which have thus occupied our attention.

ONE of the most prominent causes of complaint, and one which has excited a very lively concern, has so frequently been the object of general and individual labour, that we would gladly refrain from again adverting to it; yet while the cause remains, we cannot, in justice to our feelings, silently pass it by. We allude to the neglect of our Meetings for the solemn act of divine worship.——Can the love of God hold a place in that mind which refuses him the reasonable service, of devoting to a public acknowledgment of our dependence upon him, a small portion of that time which he has granted us for purposes the most deeply interesting, having relation not only to the present life, but to that which is to come?—Can the spirit of watchfulness and prayer pervade that mind which feels no concern, under a sense of its own weakness, to unite with the spirits of others, in humbly waiting upon him for the renewal of strength, for the guidance of his Spirit, for that sufficiency for all the exigencies of time, which is from him alone; and, as the heart becomes rightly qualified therefor, to join

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in the ascription of praises to him, for all his manifold favours to his creature man.—We are solicitous, that considerations of this kind may deeply impress the minds of all who have given rise to these complaints; that they may be induced closely to examine whether the want of love to God, the first great duty of man, be not indeed the secret cause of this neglect, however plausible may have been the reasonings by which they have justified it to themselves. It is almost too obvious to require the remark, that the want of love and unity among Brethren, will be found to result from the same cause.—"If we walk in the light, as he [who has called us] is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin."—To the manifestations of this light, may the attention of all be directed, as to a certain standard. Leaning not to our understanding, to the erring and uncertain light of human reason, may we bring not only our actions, but our motives, to the balance of the sanctuary; solicitous alone to refer them to principle. Here we shall let go that attachment to the world, its wisdom, its spirit and maxims, which is at enmity with God, and enter upon that life of self-renunciation to which all the blessings of the Gospel apply. Here *all* our testimonies will be supported, not because they are enjoined by Discipline, but from an internal conviction of their consistency with the Truth.—Love unfeigned, will abound—the spirit of war, or a disposition to partake of its fruits, will find no place—the motive to deviate from Christian simplicity will be done away—the importance of education, the responsibility of the parental charge, will be viewed in its just light—our conversation will be guarded—the Scriptures of Truth will be read with delight—the wants of the poor will be relieved—the non-performance of promises will cease to be a subject of complaint—we shall be qualified to labour, feelingly, fervently and patiently, with those whom we find stepping aside from the path of rectitude; and enabled to place judgment when it appears necessary, in the authority of Truth. Here in fine, (as an advancement is known in this path) will be witnessed a happy release from the bondage of the world, and an admission to the glorious liberty which is to be enjoyed in the freedom of the Gospel; which we desire that all may rightly labour to attain.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid,

WILLIAM ROTCH, JUN. *Clerk.*

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES

OF THE

YEARLY MEETING FOR NEW-ENGLAND,

HELD ON RHODE-ISLAND, IN THE 6TH MONTH, 1818.

IT appearing by accounts from several of our Meetings, that there are some of our Members, who by a late law of the United States are authorized (as persons in necessitous circumstances,) to receive pensions from the Government, for military services performed by them in the revolutionary war, before they made profession with us. The cases of such, wherever they may be, have in a feeling manner claimed our serious and weighty attention; and it is our united sense and judgment, that it will not be consistent with that faithful testimony for the Truth, against War, which all the Members of our religious Society are required to bear, for any such to avail themselves of those pensions.

It is therefore advised, and earnestly recommended, to all our Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, where any cases of this kind may occur, seasonably to extend their brotherly care and attention to all such Friends, and in a spirit of sympathy and tenderness, endeavour to strengthen and impress their minds with a suitable sense of the necessity of a cheerful and willing sacrifice of the property thus tendered to them, as well for their own peace, as the support of our Christian testimony against the unrighteous and cruel practice of War.

At the same time, Friends are recommended to bear in mind our anciently established practice, so reputable to our Society, of contributing to the comfortable support of the necessitous. And where the outward circumstances of any of those alluded to may require assistance, it is advised that a liberal hand of kindness be extended to them, offering them all that relief and comfort which their several conditions may need.

By direction of the Meeting aforesaid,

WILLIAM ROTCH, JUN. *Clerk.*

At our Yearly Meeting of Friends held on Rhode-Island for New-England, beginning on first-day the 13th of the 6mo with Meetings for Publick Worship, and on second-day morning the 14th for Discipline. 1819.

Accounts were received from all our Quarterly Meetings by which it appears the following Friends were appointed Representatives to this Meeting:

For Rhode-Island, Benjamin Freeborn, John Wilbur, Obadiah Brown, David Earl, Sylvester Wickes, and Abner Slate. —— Salem, Enoch Reed, William Dean, Micajah Collins, Jonathan Nichols, John Page, and Ezra Collins. —— Sandwich, Abial Akin, Samuel Rodman, George Mitchell, Ebenr Allen, Isaac Lawrence, Joseph Tripp. —— Falmouth, Thomas Jones, Samll H. Hussey, Ebenr Allen, William Cobb. —— Smithfield, Walter Allen, Royal Southwick, David Randall, Josiah Howe. —— Wolfsborough, Moses Hackey, Moses Chapin, Stewart Foster. —— Dover, Richd Mann, Wm Brown, Ezekiel Hoit, and Josiah Marston. —— Who are all present, except two.

Our beloved Friend William Rickman, having attended this Meeting, certificates from the Monthly Meeting of Rochester, Quarterly Meeting of Kent, and the Yearly Meeting of Ministers and Elders held in London, in 1818, expressive of their unity with his ministry and prospects, were read, and his company and religious engagements acceptable to us.

We have also the acceptable company of our Friends Daniel Quinby and James Flavell; whose certificates were read — as also the Certificate of our friends Whitson Canby, Companion to Margaret Judge, and Jacob Conklin, Companion to Elizabeth H. Walker, — whose company has been acceptable.

The General Epistle from the Yearly Meeting of London, Epistles to this Meeting from the same Yearly Meeting, and from the Yearly Meetings of Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina & Ohio, were acceptably read, and we appoint William Almy, Samuel Rodman, Thomas Rowland, George Mitchell, Rowland Greene, Edw Cobb, John Pacley, Thomas Arnold, Thos A. Greene, John Wilbur, Obadiah Brown, Micajah Collins, & Abner Kenyon, to take those Epistles under consideration, and if any of them, prepare Epistles to said meetings respectively, and lay before a future sitting

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We appoint Samuel F. Hadley, Nicholas Jones, Walter Allen, Daniel Johnson, Benjamin Freeborn, Moses Cooper, and Jonas Gardner, to settle our accounts with the Treasurer; to propose the sum they may think necessary to supply the Treasury the year ensuing, and to name a Treasurer.

All our Quarterly Meetings inform, that they have directed their respective proportions of Stock to be paid to our Treasurer.

We are informed by Sandwich Quarterly Meeting that they have approved the ministry of Isaac Lawrence, of Falmouth; by Dover, that they have approved the ministry of Martha Hoag, of Sandwich, N.H. — and by their respective Quarterly Meetings, that they have united in the appointment to the station of elders, of Amey Knowles, of South Kingstown; Cyril Reynolds, of Greenwich; Pethia Ladd, of Weare; Mark Coffin and Eunice Mitchell of Nantucket No. District; Grace Davis, of Sandwich; Mary Rotch, of New Bedford; Seth Tilley, of Smithfield; Patience Earl and Rachel Earl, of Norbridge; David Randall, of Richmond, and Joshua Jenkins, of Berwick, Monthly Meetings.

Adjourned to the 4th hour this afternoon.

Afternoon, met by adjournment.

The Representatives having proposed Abraham Shearman Jr. for Clerk, and George Gilchrist for Assistant Clerk, which being approved, they are accordingly appointed for the ensuing year.

The Queries were read, with answers from all the Quarterly Meetings, (except Falmouth,) which led to the expression of some pertinent and feeling remarks on the deficiencies therein presented to our view. — From them answers the following Summary is digested.

It appears, that with the exception of one or two small meetings a few times neglected, partly through the inclemency of the weather, all our meetings for religious worship and discipline have been duly kept up, and generally attended by most Friends; but negligence in the discharge of this important duty is still apparent in others; and some instances of sleeping continue to be noticed; & other unbecoming behaviour in our meetings are generally done. — Love and unity are generally preserved, and dedication guarded against, though not without exceptions that have been exercising to the minds of many Friends. —

1819 Care to and differences is generally maintained. Many among us appear to be concerned to bring up those under their direction in plainness, and to preserve their susceptible minds from the hurtful influence of pernicious Books and corrupting conversation; while others are too remiss, both in precept and example. — The Scriptures are frequently read in most families. — The unnecessary use of spirituous liquors and frequenting places of publick resort, appear, with few exceptions to be guarded against. Our testimony against War is generally maintained, yet instances of deputation from it are noticed in two of the accounts, and have claimed the care of Friends where they have occurred. — Moderation and temperance are mostly observed. — The necessities of the poor appear to be relieved. — Proceedings with regard to marriage are generally conformable to discipline. — The inspection and settlement of accounts is attended to, though not without exception, in this, as well as in the payment of debts. — Care is taken of our records, though some want of proper attention in recording births and deaths is manifest. Friends are concerned to deal regularly with offenders, and to pass judgment according to discipline.

Having the company of our friends Margaret Judge of Indian Spring Monthly Meeting in the State of Maryland, & Elizabeth H. Watts, of Purchase, and Ruth Hallock of Creek Monthly Meetings in the State of New York, their Certificates were read; as were also the Certificates of our friends Mary Proctor, Sarah Sutton and Sarah C. Field, their companions — who have been acceptably with us.

Adjourned to the 3d. hour tomorrow afternoon.

15th day, met by adjournment.

The Records of the Meeting for Sufferings were read; and the attention therein manifested to the concerns of Society that have come before them, being satisfactory to us, the Friends who composed that Meeting, for the past year, are continued to constitute a Meeting for Sufferings for the ensuing year, except Amos Peasley, who is removed from the Yearly Meeting; and John Bailey, Samuel Philbrick, and Joseph Metcalf, are appointed in addition thereto.

The Reading School Committee made the following report:

"The School Committee report, That in pursuance of the duties assigned them, as by minutes of their appointment from the Yearly Meeting of Men and Women Friends, of last year, they proceeded, as soon as the nature of circumstances would admit, to organize the Institution entrusted to their care.

The School was opened for the reception of Children at the commencement of the present year, under the care of Matthew and Betsey Purington, as Superintendants and Thomas Rowland, Benjamin Bodman, Deborah Tillt, Mary Mitchell and Dorcas Gardner, as Instructors. As the Funds belonging to the Institution had been applied in building and furnishing the house, it was deemed necessary for its support, to fix the price of Board and Tuition, including Books and Stationary — washing and mending, at one hundred dollars a year; twenty-five dollars to be paid in advance at the commencement of each Quarter. No child is admitted for a less term than one quarter; or of less age than eight years, except Orphans, or such as are under the care of Monthly Meetings, or in some special cases, at the discretion of the acting Committee, and no Boys are to remain or be received after they attain the age of fourteen years, without liberty of said Committee.

The most suitable to meet the views of the Yearly Meeting in the establishment of a plan of guarded education, the Committee recommended to the Monthly Meetings, to appoint a few judicious Friends to whom application should be made by Parents or Guardians of Children intended for the School, and that the Friends so appointed, should consider it their duty not only to enjoin, that the Children come in a plain dress, and in the use of the plain Scripture language; but that they are of good habits; which they were requested to certify to the Superintendants.

The Committee having taken into consideration the distance of the School from the Meeting in the town of Providence, and the inconvenience that would result to the Children, particularly in the inclement season of the year, from the attendance of that Meeting, it was thought best that Meetings should be held at suitable times in the School House under the care of such of the Committee as might find it convenient to attend, and others to the attendance of other concerned Friends. In consequence of which

Meeting has been regularly held on the first and fourth days of the week except the last of Quarterly and Monthly Meetings at Providence to the satisfaction of the Friends that have attended.

The School has gradually increased from its commencement. At a Meeting of the Committee on the 3d of the 2d Mo. the number of Children was 29 male, and 20 female; at the conclusion of the first quarter 31st of 3mo. the whole number was 78. At the present time there are 40 males 37 females.—The School appears to have been satisfactorily conducted, and the Family throughout to be living harmoniously.

By the accounts of the Superintendant it appears that the Sum received during the first Quarter was equal to the expenditure. The branches of learning at present taught are Reading, Writing, Arithmetick, Grammar, and Geography.

Signed on behalf, and by direction of the Boarding School Committee, at a Meeting held at Providence 7th of 3mo. 1819.

Sam.l Rodman,
Dorcas Brown.

"Which being read and considered, is acceptable to this Meeting, and the Friends who constitute the Meeting for Sufferings are named to unite with such Committee as may be appointed by the Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, to—compose a School Committee for the ensuing year and in all respects to act in behalf of this Meeting in the concerns of that Institution.

The pecuniary concern of the Yearly Meeting's Boarding School as presented to us by the Minutes of the Meeting for Sufferings having claimed our attention, we appoint Benjamin Mott, Enoch Reed, Zenas Gardner—Josiah Dow, John Osborne, Moses Tarkey and Jn.o Brown more deliberately to consider the subject and report at our next setting.

The Committee appointed to settle the Treasurer's accounts, and name a Treasurer, made the following Report:—

"We have examined the Treasurer's accounts, and find due him eighty six dollars; and propose raising six hundred dollars for Stock the ensuing year, and also propose Obadiah Brown for Treasurer. On behalf of the Committee

Newport, 6mo. 15, 1819. Sam.l H. Hussey."

which is accepted to and adopted. Brown is in accordance therewith appointed Treasurer of this Meeting for the year ensuing; and our several Quarterly Meetings are requested to forward to our Treasurer their respective proportions of six hundred dollars, the sum proposed to be raised, viz. — Rhode-Island, 180; Salem, 60; Sandwich, 232; Falmouth, 20; Smithfield, 80; Nantucket, 18; Dover, 30.

Adjourned to the 10th hour tomorrow morning.

16th day. — Met by adjournment.

The Committee appointed at our last sitting on the state of the school fund, presented the following Report —

"That they have examined the subscription papers, and find that $2132. will, from the most correct information they can obtain, be paid down — and that in further aid of the Institution, they think it will be necessary to raise $2000. and that a subscription be entered into for the purpose of raising that sum at this time; but should there be a deficiency, they recommend that it be sent down to the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings for Friends to subscribe in their freedom."

Signed.

Benjamin Mott,
Enoch Reed,
Zenas Gardner,
Josiah Dow,
John Osborne,
Moses Starkey
John Brown.

6th of 4th mo. 1819.

and the propositions therein contained being the object of this meeting we appoint Isaac Rowland & Isaac Hicks, Thomas Arnold Gordon, William Haywood, Luke Bridge, Josiah Dow, Isaac Wright, Jun., Andrew Robeson, Moses Parmum, Elnathan Gardner, and Edward Foster, to call on Friends to contribute in their freedom, to the object in view, and report at a future sitting.

One of the Friends appointed to receive a Deed of Friends' Meeting House and Lot in the town of Boston, having given this Meeting some information relative to the present situation of said Lot, the further consideration of the subject is referred to the Meeting for Sufferings, for them to act therein in behalf of this Meeting, as they may think best — and if necessary appoint Trustees to receive a Deed of that or any other Lot.

Adjourned to the 5th hour this afternoon.

(Afternoon — Met by adjournment.)

The Committee appointed at the morning sitting, report that they have obtained Subscriptions in aid of the School Fund, to the amount of £925 50/100, which falling short of the Sum proposed to be raised; and it appearing that the state of the Treasury of the Institution is such as to afford no adequate means of defraying expenses, which will be necessarily incurred in making such improvements about the Yards and Lot, as are requisite for the better accommodation and convenience of the Yearly Meeting School; and it being, at the same time thought very desirable, that a Fund should be commenced, which in the progress of the Institution may extend its usefulness to the children of Friends in more moderate circumstances than can now avail themselves of it; the Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this minute with the report of the Committee, presented this morning, to our several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings, in the expectation, from the concern here manifested, that Friends will contribute, according to their ability, in promotion of these objects. — Such subscriptions as may be obtained, to be forwarded to Moses Brown, Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting School Fund.

The Committee appointed to prepare Epistles, presented drafts to our Friends of the Yearly Meetings of London, Philadelphia, New York, Baltimore, Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio, which being read, were directed to be transcribed, with such verbal alterations as may be deemed necessary, signed on our behalf by the Clerk, and transmitted to those Meetings.

The Clerk is directed to endorse on the Certificates of our Friends from abroad, that their company has been acceptable to us.

Having been favoured to transact the various concerns of Society that have come before us, in a good degree of brotherly love and condescension; we conclude under a grateful sense thereof, and propose to meet again on this Island, at the usual time, next year, if the Lord permit.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting,

Abm Shearman, Clk. pro tem.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends of London.

Dear Friends,

The accounts from our Quarterly Meetings laid before us at this time, manifest a care to preserve the testimonies, which, as a Society, we have from its earliest days, cherished and held dear; although it is painful to observe that individual instances of defection and departure therefrom, are still to be found among us, as noticed in those accounts; yet we humbly trust, not to a degree to discourage the faithful labourers in the different parts of the Vineyard, from a diligence of duty; for the fulfilment whereof, as they seek a single eye to the dictates of the Spirit of Truth, we have no doubt they will be suitably qualified.

Your anxiety that none under our name may be "entangled in the love of earthly things," by the temptations the present flattering of Peace opens in commercial prosperity, evinces a degree of that expansive love of the Brethren which emanates from the fountain of goodness; a watchful dependence whereon, can alone preserve in true rectitude of conduct; keep us unspotted from the world; and enable us finally to render our accounts with joy.

The guarded education of the rising generation has, at times, for a long series of years, been an interesting concern to us, beyond the limits of our families and neighbourhood; and it affords a degree of satisfaction now to inform you, that a Boarding School under our care, was opened the beginning of this year, in the vicinity of Providence, [Rhode-Island] the superintending Committee whereof, has reported to this Meeting, a Statement of its progress, which from the short experiment that has been made, affords an encouraging hope, that the establishment may be productive of beneficial effects. We trust that this Assembly, has been

measurably owned by the holy Head of the Church, under whose influence the concerns that came before it, have been conducted in harmony; — With the salutation of love, we remain Your Friends.

Signed by direction, and on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid,

( ) Abm Sharman Junr Clerk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Philadelphia

Dear Friends,

Your acceptable Epistle of the fourth Mo. last, was received, and read in this Meeting; in the several sittings of which, we have been favoured to conduct the affairs of the Society, in unity, and harmony — and we have been comforted in the belief, that numbers of the Youth are increasing in religious obedience, and that under its precious influence, they will be qualified for the work and service of their day; Although by the accounts laid before us at this time, there are many deficiencies remaining among us, we have thankfully to believe there are many preserved, to whom the testimonies committed to us are indeed precious.

By the report of our School Committee, we are informed that our Boarding School was opened at the commencement of the present year and affords a prospect of usefulness.

It is with satisfaction we learn that your Meeting for Sufferings has been engaged to solicit your legislature for the better security of the rights of Colour from the depredations of kidnapers and stealing men; and although desirable success may not always attend virtuous labours, these endeavours may open the way to future efforts, by encouraging their friends and enlightening those who are inimical to them, and thus promote their suffering cause.

The subject of a Meeting of Representatives from the several Yearly Meetings on this Continent, is left us at our last Yearly Meeting. With the salutation of love, We remain Your Friends and Brethren.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid

( ) Jon Sharman, Junr Clerk

To the Early Meeting of Friends of New York.

Dear Friends

We embrace our Journality, but at the present in the animating love of the Gospel, that we are induced again affectionately to salute you as brethren and fellow labourers in the Lord. Your acceptable epistle of the present year has been received; in the reading of which together with those from the several Yearly Meetings which constitute our religious Society, we have felt renewedly comforted in the belief, that the continuance of this brotherly correspondence tends to our mutual benefit: and that as we remain careful to preserve it under the right direction, it will be blessed as a means of uniting us more and more together as the heart of one man.

The interesting subject of the education of our Youth as connected with the Friends School now established under the care of this Meeting, has claimed a portion of our attention at this time; the state of this institution during the short time that it has been in operation, we think affords ground for encouragement. The minds of many of the living members of the Church have been deeply exercised under a sense of the importance of this subject, and of the responsibility attached to this charge; and we are persuaded that it is only as our minds are preserved in that state of solicitous dependence, and prayerful humble dependence on that source, from which alone assistance can be derived, that we shall be enabled to do what is incumbent on us, in bringing up the rising generation in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The account from our several Quarterly Meetings, have brought afresh to our view the many deficiencies that are still existing among us; the consideration of these has been painfully exercising to the minds of those who have the welfare of Zion at heart; and we think it is in divine appointment that they should be thus awakened and made instrumental in preserving the hedge from being broken down, and the Vineyard which the Lord has planted from being laid waste. And we de-

sire,

rise, that every Member of the militant Church, both with us and with you or wheresoever situated may be engaged to apply with increasing faithfulness to the discharge of approbended duty, that we may become less and less disposed to lean to our own understandings and be willing to yield ourselves up in simple acquiescence to every intimation of the Father's will, however great or however little it may appear in our eyes; — remembering that in every extremity His Name is a strong tower, wherein the righteous may flee and find safety;

With the renewed salutation of brotherly love
we remain Your Friends,
Signed on behalf of the Meeting aforesaid,
Wm Sherman Junr Clerk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends Baltimore Maryland.

Dear Friends,

Desirous of maintaining our Epistolary intercourse with you, we again salute you, under feelings of brotherly love, and acknowledge the receipt of your acceptable communication of last month last. Our meeting at this time has on the whole been owned by the Great Head of the Church, and under a feeling sense of his strengthening presence, we have been, in measure, animated to labour for the removal of the various causes which in Gods wisdom obscure the beauty of our profession. — May, we with us and with you who are thus engaged for the welfare of Zion and for the enlargement of her borders, be preserved as in the hollow of his holy hand, and their number be increased.

It is with satisfaction we learn that you still bear in mind the injured Africans, and are using endeavours to alleviate their sufferings as well as to improve the condition of the Indian natives. We feel a sympathy with you in these concerns and hope you will be strengthened to continue your attention to these laudable objects.

Our infant institution for the gratuitous education of our Children which commenced with the present

Dissent your affords us encouragement; and we are pleased to learn that you are about to establish a similar institution.

With the warmest salutation of love, we remain your friends.

Signed in behalf of said Meeting,

Abm. Shannon Clk.

At the Yearly Meeting, Friends in Ireland.

Dear Friends.

We have again been permitted to meet together in the solemnities of a Yearly Meeting, and have thankfully to acknowledge the owning of our Heavenly Father's love, wherein many minds have been comforted; and under a degree of this sensibility, we trust, we have been favoured to transact the weighty concerns of the Church, and to look into her present state, as exhibited in the accounts sent up from the subordinate Meetings, with a lively engagement which has manifested itself in many minds, not only breathing forth ardent desires, but also quickening into labour for the prosperity of Zion. Counsel and advice have flowed freely to the beloved Youth, present in this Assembly, for whom divine love travailed in birth, that Christ the hope of our salvation, may be formed in them, and we are comforted in the belief, that there are among these a goodly number who are yielding to the drawing hand of him who is mercifully dealing with them. —

May this class of Society, both with us and you, be preserved from the fascinating influence of the things of time, and become willing to submit to the turning of the Divine hand: that so there may be a succession of testimony bearers holily collected in the rising generation.

May they by this submitting to the divine commands be made partakers of his love, and become enamoured with the beauty there is in holiness, whereby they will be made willing to submit to the all-essential cross of Christ in a becoming simplicity of behaviour, agreeable to the example of him the Great Pattern, as also conformable to the

Society of the primitive Friends, and again revived, and faithfully practised by our worthy predecessors, and which still remains to be a testimony obligatory on us. This testimony has we believe been a blessing to us, and a guard round about the younger part of Society. Our minds have not only thus been exercised on this account, but also on account of that still more important testimony of assembling together at the stated times, for the solemn purpose of worship that is spiritual and divine. In the faithful performance of this, Dear Friends, we trust you are sensible as well as we, the well being of our Society is deeply involved. and may none who make the high profession of being "chosen out of the world," suffer the love of earthly things to deter them from thus assembling together, nor yet to divert their minds from a lively engagement in waiting upon God, when thus assembled, for the renewal of their strength.

We satisfactorily observe, in your acceptable Epistle, that counsel and admonition were administered in your assembly, exciting to vigilance and circumspection in a faithful discharge of duty, and a maintenance of the testimonies we as a people are found to support; and we have been made renewedly sensible that the times call for it with us, as well as with you. We have also noticed with satisfaction, the account of your concern for the instruction of the coloured Children under your care, and we trust your charity thus conferred on the offspring of a much injured People, will meet with its appropriate blessing.

Our Boarding School at Providence, commenced with the present year, and its usefulness and success at the present time appear promising.

In love, we remain Your Friends and Brethren,

Signed, On behalf the Meeting aforesaid,

Abbie Sharman, Jun. Clk.

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends, in South Carolina

Dear Friends,

We have received your acceptable Epistle of the 11th. Month last; and it is subject of encouragement to us to learn that the weighty concerns of Society that claimed your attention were transacted in brotherly love and condescension; that ability was given to labour for the removal of deficiences; and that you were comforted in believing that many of the youth are coming under the qualifying influence of Divine wisdom: May these not only rejoice in this for a season as in a bright and shining light; but witness it, as that which baptizeth, and taketh away the sin of the soul.

We note, with sympathy that your exercise for the relief of the oppressed African race, still continues.

Having been permitted once more to assemble in the capacity of a Yearly Meeting, it has been a favour as large as usual, and according to our faithfulness and experience, we have been enabled to conduct the business of Society in love and harmony. May we with you know our brotherly love to continue, and that it may flow from an experimental Knowledge of, and obedience to the Son of God, as he is manifestly revealed in the soul, that our correspondence may be continued in the newness of life, and not in the oldness of the letter.

With the salutation of love, we remain Your Friends and Brethren.

Signed

On behalf of said Meeting,

Abm Shearman, Jun: Clk

To the Yearly Meeting of Friends in Ohio.

Dear Friends,

Having been favoured again to assemble in a Yearly Meeting capacity, and to feel the heavenly Fatherly love to influence our minds, the important concerns of Society, as our religious have at this time presented and exercised many Friends, and while we

have had to witness, that some under our name are remiss in supporting our testimonies, and thereby have occasioned pain to the minds of their concerned Brethren; we are encouraged from the belief, that others are submitting to become servants to the cause, and that in this number our youth are not excluded; many of whom we believe are under the ploughing hand, and filling for usefulness.

We have received at this time communications from the Yearly Meetings of London and those on this Continent, and have derived encouragement from the belief, that many Friends in their different stations continue to be exercised for the promotion of truth and righteousness on the earth; and however various may be the channels of such as are engaged in the precious cause, yet flowing from the one source, must therein centre, and cement the spirits of such as are thus concerned; for by baptized into the one body, engrafted through the efficacy of his power, into him who is the living vine; drawing life and nourishment therefrom, we become members one of another and of him the holy Head; and may we ever keep in remembrance that the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; but as we abide in Christ, receiving our life by the circulating influence of his power we shall be enabled to bring forth fruit to his praise, who has called us to glory and to virtue.

With other concerns, that have interested this Meeting have been those relating to the Boarding School at Providence under its immediate care. It was opened at the commencement of the present year, and by the report of the Committee received at this time it appears to have been satisfactorily conducted. We are sensible that nothing short of the fostering care and protection of him who condescends to bless our endeavours, as we depend upon him, can make availing our endeavours on behalf of our Children, even in placing them under the care of those who may be concerned to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and that it becomes necessary for the dear Children to hearken to the voice of the Beloved of their Souls. And whilst preserved from that which the blessed Principle reproves, may they stand ready to

to welcome him who is the chiefest among ten thousands, and the altogether lovely one to those who have submitted to take his yoke upon them and to learn of him who is meek and lowly, and thereby found rest to their souls. And, dear Children, are there not some of you who have become enamoured of the Truth, in comparison of which all things else are counted as dross in your view? Be encouraged to go on to perfection; submitting from time to time to the operation of the refined principle which will purify, and make you fit temples for the Holy Spirit to dwell in, and thus with the works of him that has called you, be produced, as the effect of an attention to his power manifested in your hearts, and no occasion be ministered for the enemies of your concerned Friends, by your departure from the testimonies given us to bear; but such will say to each other in the expressive language of example, Come let us go up to the house of the Lord, and enquire in his temple, for one day in his courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

We hope, Dear Friends, a blessing will attend your endeavours to do good to the Indian natives, and that although your field seems extending, and you feel the inheritance of the Lord service, and in want of the necessary means for extending your benevolence, yet remember that he whom we serve is not a hard Master, but blesses according to ability and capacity, and as his servants are faithful in little things, or in the few things committed to them, he mercifully condescends in blessing to bless, and in multiplying to multiply his favours upon us.

With the renewed salutation of our love, We are your Friends and Brethren.

Signed on behalf, and by direction of the Meeting aforesaid,

Aaron Shearman, Jr. Clk.

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List of Members of Select Meeting, as reported 1789.

Rhode Island Quarterly Meeting.

Monthly Meetings

Rhode Island — James Mitchell
Jacob Mott
Isaac Lawton
Eliz.a Mott
Mary Mitchel
Mary Lawton
Catharine Almy
Sampson Shearman
Dorcas Earl
Clark Rodman
Jon.a Greene
Peleg Almy — 12

Greenwich — James Greene
Benj.a Congdon
Ephraim Congdon
Thomas Aldrich
Susannah Aldrich
John Casey
Desire Langford
Paul Greene
Daniel Fowland jun.r — 9

Smithfield — Adam Darkness
George Smith
Margaret Smith
Martha Comstock
George Comstock
Hannah Reed
Elisha Thornton
David Buffum
Deborah Mowry
Hephzibah Buffum — 10

Pelatiah — Peleg Davis
Stephen Foxe
Thomas Tazard

Pelatiah — Tho.s Wilbur
John Knowles
Andrew Nichols
Mary Wilbur
Sarah Foxe

Uxbridge — Daniel Aldrich
John Fry
Daniel Cass
Nathan Darkness
William Bassett
Jaazaniah Banet
Eliz.a Farnum
Ann Wheeler
Joanna Shove — 9

Providence — Joseph Congdon
Benj.a Arnold
Job Scott
Moses Brown
Sarah Bagnall
Abigail Harris
Lydia Wilkenson — 7

Salem Quarterly Meeting.

Salem — Mary Southwick
Joseph Southwick
Samuel Purington
James Needham
James Purington
Samuel Collins
Abijah Nowell
Daniel Nowell
Ebenezer Pope
Henry Oliver
Bethiah Southwick
Abigail Purington
Judith Collins.

Salem . . Mary Bassel
Hannah Breed
Elizabeth Pope
Alice Needham 17
Dover . . Timothy Hanson
Isaac Varney
Enoch Hoag
Elijah Jenkins
Peter Morrell
Peter Morrell Junr
Jonathan Dame
James Neal
Reynolds Jenkins
Charles Runlet
Mary Hanson
Bethiah Hanson
Elizabeth Varney
Sarah Gould
Mehitable Jenkins
Hannah Dow
Lydia Rogers
Ruth Page
Mercy Dame
Sarah Jenkins
Anna Cartline 21
Hampton Jacob Rowel
Joshua Folsom
Jonathan Dow
Timothy Peasley
Jonathan Marble
Hannah Philbrook
Comfort Collins
Sarah Marble
Rebekah Greene
Elizabeth Dow
Anne Purington
Anne Rowell
Sarah Sawyer
Betty Folsom 14

Falmouth James Goddard
Stephen Morrell
Elisha Purington
John Winslow
Samuel Jones
Jeremiah Tucker
Joseph Douglass
Samuel Rowland
David Purington
Amos Nickerson
Samuel Jones Junr
Susannah Austin
Thankful Jagger
Anna Tucker 14
Yarmouth John Taber
Remington Gobby
Moses Sleeper
Nathan Breed
Hannah Sleeper
Elizabeth Taber
Sarah Taber 7
Sandwich Quarterly Meeting.
Sandwich Mo Mg John Russell
Benj Swift
Samuel Bowerman
Ruth Bowerman
Elizabeth Wing
Anna Allen
Richard Delano
Abigail Wing 8
Pembroke . . John Rogers
John Bailey
Mary Bailey 3
Nantucket. Elihu Coleman. deceased
Jonathan Mary
Peleg Folger deceased
William Rotch
Sarah Mitchell

Nantucket. Shubael Coffin
David Greene
Mary Mitchell
Priscilla Bunker
Lois Macy
Sarah Barney
Lois Barney
Elizabeth Rotch
Sarah Barker
Deborah Hussey
Alice Starbuck
Zephaniah Harris
Anna Swain 10

Dartmouth Joseph Tucker
Nanny Gifford
Deborah Hicks
Thomas Hicks
Mercy Slocumb
Martha Gifford now Smith
James Davis
Caleb Greene
Deborah Davis
Benjamin Taber
Joseph Tucker Junr.
Rhoda Tucker .. 12

Swansey now belonging to Rhode Island Quarter
Theophilus Shove
Job Anthony
Philip Chase
Caleb Earl
Benj. Buffington
Stephen Head
Moses Buffington
Levi Hunt
Edward Shove
Adonijah Upton
Rebecca Earl
Isabella Buffington
Patience Brayton

Swansey Hannah Chase
Deborah Slead
Sarah Purington
Phebe Robenson
Hannah Earl. 10

Coaxet . Jeremiah Austin
Philip Tripp
Abner Potter
Stephen Buffington
Mary Wing
Eber Davis
Peace Devol. 7

Appointments in Rhode Island Quarter.

1790 Freelove Harris
Ruth Shearman

Sandwich Quarter

1790. Joseph Wing
Susannah Russell
Abigail Wing

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1816

London Epistle of 1812 Name of Correspondents in London

Frederick Smith No 29 Hay market London Piccadilly

John Pim 66 Bartholomew Close London West Smithfield

John Hamilton 11 Mark Lane London

William Binns 124 Swallow Street & 2 Park Street London.

1816. London Epistle to John Hamilton 11 Mark Lane London

Capt Swain Ingersoll in Ship Eaton from Boston sailed 11mo 1816

Baltimore & N Carolina sent to Gerard T Hopkins

Virginia directed to Micajah Crew Crewsville Virginia

Ohio sent to Thomas Rotch

Philadelphia sent Jos Rotch & by him delivered to the Clerk

New York sent Richard Mott

1817. London Epistle sent by John Fisher (3mo 17) duplicate sent to Isaac Brown 12mo

Ohio sent by Benj W Ladd 7mo 9

North Carolina sent by Miles White 7mo

Baltimore sent from Philadelphia by Sarah Zane 9mo

Philadelphia

New York

Virginia sent Micajah Crew Crewsville Virginia 9mo ail 2mo 16. 1818

1818 London Epistle inclosed 7mo to Richd Foster duplicate to John T Barry 2mo 1819

Ohio sent T Rotch 8th month

Baltimore & North Carolina } inclosed to Gerard T Hopkins 9mo

Philadelphia

New York

Virginia - directed to Micajah Crew Crewsville Virginia 3mo 11. 1819

1819. Ohio Epistle, inclosed to Tho. Rotch, by mail, in 8th mo. -

North Carolina, - by Judith Coffin, 9mo 23d

Baltimore, by mail, 9mo 28 - directed to John Janney or G. T. Hopkins

London, directed to John Hamilton, handed Jos Grinnell, to Josiah

- about 11mo 1 - duplicate by "Courier," from N York, 11mo.

Virginia, - by mail, to Micajah Crew, Crewsville, Virginia, 2mo 22.

Philad.a by mail.

New-York - by Packet, to Collins & Co. under cover to R. Lawrence

Epistles for the year 1809 Forwarded Viz!

London. to the care of William Allen 8m° 4. 1809
& Ship Diana Hezekiah Barnard —
North Carolina & Mail to Nathan Hunt. 8m° 24
Baltimore ... & D.° to Cornthwait & Yarnall
8m° 29. 1809 —
Philad.ª Sam.l R Fisher
New york, Hicks Jenkins & Co.
Virginia Sam.l R Fisher.

1810

London. & Moses Brown at Portsm.th 8m.° 1. who was
to forward it. Duplicate & Fredrick Capt.n Briggs
North Carolina, & Mail to Nathan Hunt. 8m° 18. 1810
Baltimore — D.° — to Edward Stabler " " "
Philad.ª — to Jon.ª Evans & Elizabeth Rodman
Newyork. to Hicks Jenkins & Co. in letter 8m 18. 1

1812

London Epistle to the care of Cropper Benson & Co. Liverpool
in letter dated 7m.° 8.th & Capt Crocker
North Carolina & Mail to Nathan Hunt
Philad.ª Virginia & Baltimore to Sam.l R. Fisher in
letter dated 9m.° 21. with a book of Discipline for N Carolina
Newyork. to Hicks Jenkins & Co. & Mail 4m° 18. 1813 —

1813

London Epistle sent by E Coggeshall 7m.° Copy to B Roth
Baltimore & North Carolina by Robert Brayton 9m.°
Philadelphia inclosed to Joseph Roth 4m° 9.
New York
Virginia inclosed to Thomas Ladd Richmond 4m° 21. 1813

1814

London Epistle to Cropper Benson & Co. by Isaac Howland Jun. Copy to D. & Dutch Ship
Baltimore to Phineas Janney Alexandria, who has acknowledged its rec.t
Philad.ª to John Cox & Joseph Roth — 8m° 31
Newyork to Richard Mott & al.ª
Virginia. to Micajah Crew. Crewsville Virginia
North Carolina to Nathan Hunt & Mack
Ohio to Thomas Roth — & al.ª

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